

Diocese of Sacramento Guidelines for Eulogies

The person who gives a eulogy at a Vigil Service or Funeral Mass needs to be someone who can speak for the family of the deceased without being overcome by grief and who states a willingness to cooperate with the local diocesan and/or parish guidelines.

Content of Eulogies

Statements about the deceased should speak to the deceased person's relationship to God/family/community; tell of the Christian legacy left behind for others to learn from; help others put this person's life into the broader context of our Christian faith. Statements and memories about the deceased should be sensitive to and helpful to the family and friends in their time of loss, by giving them comfort in their grief. Video retrospectives on the life of the deceased have become a more common way to share memories. Such media retrospectives are not permitted during the liturgy in the church. These presentations are more suited to the reception or other occasions.

Number and Length of Eulogies

During the Vigil Service- The number of people giving eulogies or telling stories about the deceased at the vigil service is not prescribed, but can be left to the discretion of those planning the rites. OCF recommends this take place following the Concluding Prayer and before the Concluding Rite, on page 43. An "open mic" format is not appropriate during any of the funeral rites.

During the Funeral Liturgy – Normally, the number of eulogies to be given before the Final Commendation at the Funeral Liturgy should be **limited to one person**. (OCF #170 says..."**A** member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the Final Commendation begins.")

Eulogies should last between 3-5 minutes and it is best if the speaker has notes prepared in writing ahead of time and has timed their remarks ahead of time. Sharing of additional stories about the deceased may continue in an "open mic" style during the reception following the liturgy.