

## **Helpful Hints on Preparing Words of Appreciation or Eulogy for a Funeral Liturgy**

While it is not actually a part of the Christian Funeral Rite, a custom has begun at some funerals whereby a eulogy or an appreciation of the person is given by a relative or a friend of the deceased. Sensitivity has to be exercised around this as occasionally insensitive and indeed inappropriate things have been said at funerals. Saying something uplifting and charitable in a spirit of appreciation about the person who has died should be the main emphasis of these words.

Best practice suggests the following:

- A short tribute on behalf of the family is possible but not obligatory. People should feel totally free not to have one.
- It should be brief, no longer than five minutes, written down and delivered by one person. It should only contain words of tribute to the deceased and of thanks to those who have helped and supported the family.
- An immediate family member may not always be the best person to offer the words of appreciation, particularly if they are not accustomed to public speaking or overcome with grief, someone close to the family could be more suitable.

The appropriate time for these words of appreciation is:

- at the Reception of the Body at the Church, if it takes place on the evening before the Funeral Mass
- at the Reception of the Body if it takes place before the beginning of the Funeral Mass
- at the conclusion of the Funeral Mass before the Prayers of Commendation and Farewell.
- at the Crematorium or Graveside.