



Helpful Hints regarding a “Eulogy”

By definition, a “*eulogy*” is a

- faith centered,
- favorable and
- positive speech or written tribute,

about someone who has died and is being remembered—most notably during the Funeral Vigil or the reception following the Funeral Mass or Service of the Word within a Catholic Church. It is not the obituary.

A eulogy is a piece of written work (generally 3-5 minutes in duration) from someone, who is acknowledging a loved one who has passed away and remembering them in a special way. Eulogies provide information about how the person lived their life as an example of Christ and how they exemplified their Christian faith in their life.

There is no one, single or more correct way of writing a eulogy.

Some brief, important guidelines are:

- (a) In your eulogy, you should always acknowledge the person you are writing about in a **positive** manner;
- (b) Pay your final respects and tribute to this person in a loving manner;
- (c) Eulogies are best written out and help the reader to maintain a clear message and line of thought; and
- (d) Reflect how the person was an example of the Christian way-of-life. “I remember when” and “I can remember” are commonly used in eulogies.

When writing the eulogy, provide the necessary details and elements, but when you’re reading your eulogy, “share” it with the assembly, as though you were talking to a friend. Get the audience involved in what you are telling them—make them laugh, make them cry, and/or make them happy to be part of this final tribute to this person.

Make your eulogy memorable, reverent, and respectful.