Saint Augustin's Church
Guidelines for Preparing Words of Remembrance

(Words of Remembrance are not required; they are an option)

Being asked to deliver Words of Remembrance at a Funeral Mass of a loved one that has passed is a great honor and privilege. A *eulogy* usually consists of a list of accomplishments, education, or a collection of stories and anecdotes, but Words of Remembrance should be a sharing of some insight into the faith and values of the deceased. In honoring the memory of your loved one, please keep these guidelines in mind as you prepare your words.

1. First and foremost, please be mindful that you will be presenting your Words of Remembrance during the course of the Roman Catholic Mass – the most sacred liturgy offered in remembrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - off color language or slang is inappropriate in a sacred place.

2. Remember to always maintain a sense of dignity, solemn respect and decorum in preparing and presenting your remarks. Your words will serve to comfort the family and loved ones and also commemorate and celebrate the life of the deceased.

3. Your remarks should be 3-5 minutes in length (normally one typed page). It is requested that you write out your thoughts in order to keep yourself focused, on-point and within the time limit. Be sure to practice it aloud.

4. It is important that you make reference to the spiritual life of the deceased. Share how he or she lived out their faith within the family, workplace, community or church. Statements ought to reflect how the deceased cared for his/her spouse and children, his/her honesty in the work place, his/her participating and helping in community events to make things better for others, his/her attending Mass and the reception of the Sacraments, and helping in church activities and ministries.

5. You may also mention any of God's blessings that were bestowed on your loved one and how he/she shared those blessings with others.

6. The person delivering the Words of Remembrance will be invited forward by Father Mark at the appropriate time.

Only one person may deliver the Words of Remembrance at the Funeral Mass.