

## **Planning a Vigil Service and a Funeral Mass**

### **The Vigil**

- 1. Ask that the vigil time be planned and publicized in advance so that all may attend.**
- 2. Encourage family and friends to think about what they might want to share with others during the vigil when Words of Remembrance are given.**
- 3. Arrange for someone to lead your family and friends in singing a well-known psalm or song during the vigil. Provide copies if possible.**
- 4. Ask a member of the family or a friend to read the Scripture.**
- 5. Consider preparing the space with photos of family and your loved one. Don't forget a crucifix or image of a favorite saint.**

### **The Funeral Mass**

- 1. Choose your Scripture readings for Mass—Ask the pastor or parish about recommended readings.**
- 2. Choose your music—talk with your music minister. Select liturgical songs that speak of Christ's love and mercy and that are known by your family and friends.**
- 3. Ask your parish or members of the family to prepare a worship aid for Mass so all will know how they may participate.**
- 4. Choose liturgical ministers:**
  - family or friends who read at their parish may be lectors, that is, readers of the Scripture; The parish could provide lectors as well.**
  - family members may be gift bearers and bring forward the gifts of bread and wine during the Mass.**
  - family or friends who serve as Ministers of Communion in their parish may serve as Communion Ministers**
  - Ask if there are family members who are altar servers in their parish who may assist in the sanctuary.**
- 5. Check with the parish about the process of preparing General Intercessions. The samples available in the Order of Christian Funerals are a good start.**
- 6. If you wish, select one member of the family who will be able to speak Words of Remembrance (eulogy) at the end of the funeral Mass.**
- 7. Select pall bearers to guide the casket in and out of the church and to assist with placing the pall on the casket and removing it. One pall bearer may be entrusted with a family crucifix or bible that may be placed on the casket when it arrives at the church.**