

PLANNING MY OWN FUNERAL?

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____ Place _____

Other Sacraments _____

Family Tree

Spouse _____

Father _____

Place born _____ date _____

Mother _____

Place born _____ date _____

Maternal Grandparents _____

Paternal Grandparents _____

Children, Stepchildren, Grandchildren _____

Brothers, Sisters, Stepbrothers, Stepsisters _____

Brothers-in-law, Sisters-in-law _____

Other Family Members, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Special Friend

While I am dying,

I very much want someone I love to be with me.

I would be happy to be alone.

I would enjoy someone occasionally reading from:

I would enjoy occasionally some music (video?):

Remember, I am (*I am not*) an organ donor.

See my driver license, or: _____

A Testament Of Life

Of course, we all know that a human person is never just a set of facts. The Jesuit Priest, Anthony de Mello, S.J., offers a wonderful spiritual exercise, a way for us to reflect on our one particular life:

I imagine that today I am to die... I ask for time to be alone and write down for my family and friends a sort of testament for which the points that follow could serve as chapter titles:

1. *These things I have loved in life:*

Things I tasted,

looked at,

smelled,

heard,

touched.

2. *These experiences I have cherished:*

3. *These ideas have brought me liberation:*

4. *These beliefs I have outgrown:*

5. *These convictions I have lived by:*

6. *These are the things I have lived for:*

7. *These insights I have gained in the school of life:*

insights into God,

the world,

human nature,

Jesus Christ,

love,

religion,

prayer.

8. *These risks I took, these dangers I have courted:*

9. *These sufferings have seasoned me:*

10. *These lessons life has taught me:*

11. *These influences have shaped my life*
(persons, occupations, books, events):

12. *These scripture texts have lit my path:*

13. These things I regret about my life:

14. These are my life's achievements:

15. These persons are enshrined within my heart:

16. These are my unfulfilled desires:

I choose an ending for this document:

a poem - my own or someone else's;

or a prayer;

a sketch or a picture from a magazine;

a scripture text;

*or anything that I judge would be
an apt conclusion to my testament.*

Burial Instructions

I would like for my obituary to be written, if possible,
(_ concisely)

by: _____

I would prefer if any memorial gifts be made to:

I would like for this mortuary to take care of the body:

I prefer to be _ embalmed _ buried promptly

_ buried wearing _____

_ buried at this cemetery: _____

_ with this kind of casket: _____

_ cremated, with ashes inurned at this cemetery:

_ epitaph for the tombstone? _____

_ prayer for the memorial card: _____

Vigil For The Deceased

The vigil is usually held the night before the Funeral Mass. It begins the entire Funeral Liturgy. It can be located at a private home or at a funeral home, and many parishes welcome hosting the vigil in the church or narthex. The vigil is most appropriately held in the presence of the body, with an open casket. The promise of the resurrection makes it possible for us to mourn together in the presence of the body. Often, this can be very helpful for friends and family who were unable to visit the deceased before his or her death, as a powerful opportunity to absorb the reality of the human death of a loved one. The Vigil is the most appropriate time for friends and family to share stories and memories about the one who has died. Our stories become part of our identity, and this helps us to give due honor to our relationships that do not end in death.

I prefer that visitation with the family be held _ in the church
and narthex or chapel or parish hall. _ in a funeral home.
_ at home. _ wherever the family wants it to be.

Vigil Leader _____

Vigil Reader _____

Vigil Song Leader _____

Please ask this person to be the

first to tell a story at the Vigil _____

*Please ask this military branch, fraternal/civic organization, or
prayer group (_____) to stand
honor guard at the* _vigil _ graveside _before the funeral.

People in the Funeral Liturgy

- _ If possible, I wish the funeral to be a Mass celebration.
- _ For my own reasons, I prefer a simple Liturgy of the Word.

Please involve these people if they are willing and available:

(Pallbearers, greeters, singers, readers and gift bearers do not have to be Catholic.)

Pallbearers _____

Greeters _____

Song Leader _____

Singers _____

Altar Servers _____

Placing of the Pall (at least 2 people) _____

Placing of the Christian symbol (see pg. 11) _____

Reader of First Reading _____

Responsorial Psalm _Cantor, or _Reader _____

Reader of Second Reading _____

Reader of Gospel (deacon or priest) _____

Preaching Homily (deacon or priest) _____

General Intercessions Reader _____

Gift Bearers (2 or 3 people) _____

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (3 is a good number)

Remarks of Remembrance (not required) _____

(It is best to limit remarks to one person at the funeral, with the rest at the Vigil.)

Funeral Songs and Readings

Entrance Song _____

Placing of the Pall and Christian symbol (in silence)

First Reading, Old Testament

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading, New Testament

Gospel Reading

*In the General Intercessions (the Prayers of the Faithful),
please include
prayers for:* _____

Offertory Song _____

Communion Song _____

Meditation Song? _____

Incensing Song (Song of Farewell)

Recessional Song _____

These Christian symbols have been important to me:

These other symbols have been important to me:

Some Songs from the Glory & Praise Hymnal

HYMN TITLES

All Creatures of our God and King #714	PROCESSIONAL, RECESSIONAL,
Amazing Grace #614	PROCESSIONAL, OFFERTORY, RECESSIONAL
Alleluia, Sing to Jesus #361	RECESSIONAL
Be Not Afraid #600	PROCESSIONAL, RECESSIONAL, MEDITATION
Christ, Be Our Light #683	PROCESSIONAL, OFFERTORY, RECESSIONAL
How Great Thou Art #694	PROCESSIONAL, RECESSIONAL
God, We Praise You #719	PROCESSIONAL, OFFERTORY, RECESSIONAL
Holy, Holy, Holy #358	
Here I Am, Lord #539	PROCESSIONAL, COMMUNION
Lord of All Hopefulness #623	OFFERTORY, MEDITATION
On Eagle's Wings #606	PROCESSIONAL, RECESSIONAL
Shall We Gather at the River #773	PROCESSIONAL, OFFERTORY
This is My Song #747	

COMMUNION, MEDITATION

Gift of Finest Wheat #487
I Am the Bread of Life #493
I Know That My Redeemer Lives #318 or #431
Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist #476
Shepherd of Souls #475
Taste and See #511
We Remember #588

To My Family

- If the parish can provide a meal at the parish for the family after the funeral, I would be most appreciative.
- Ask a neighbor _____ to keep an eye on the house during the funeral.
- You will want to get ten or so original copies of the death certificate. You'll need most of them.
- I encourage you to participate in the parish bereavement group. Everyone grieves in his or her own way and on his or her own timetable. Someone may be able to help you, and you may be able to help someone else.
- I ask you to remember me especially on this year's All Soul's Day (November 2).
- _____

- If you change my suggestions, I may haunt you.
- Change anything you want.
- I love you!

Signature

Date