

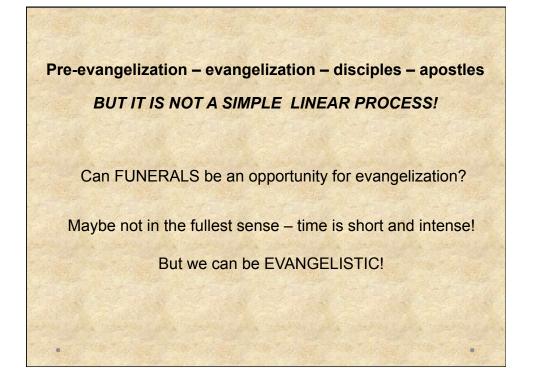


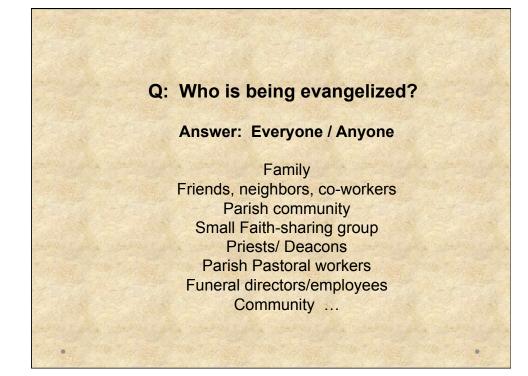
Disciples

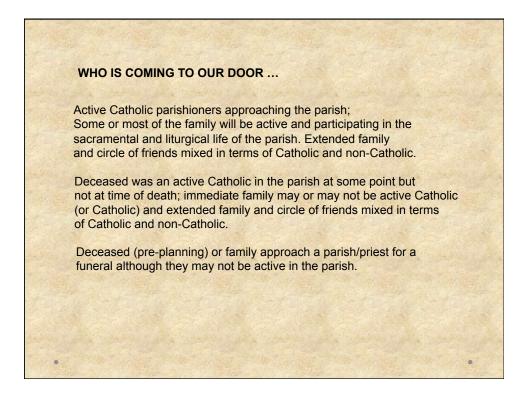
- Continual maturation
- Catechesis
- Equipping for ministry (inside and outside of the Church)
- Renewing ongoing
- Missionary disciples

Apostles

- Serving
- Proclaiming
- Engaged in social justice and evangelization



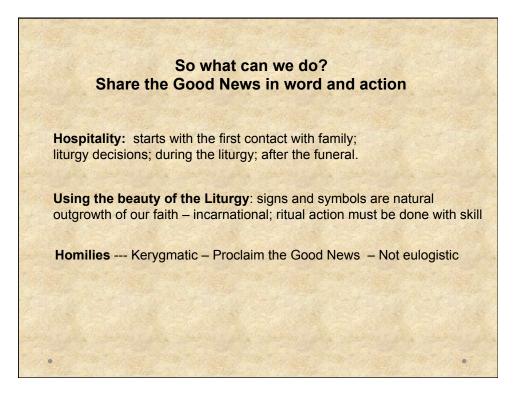


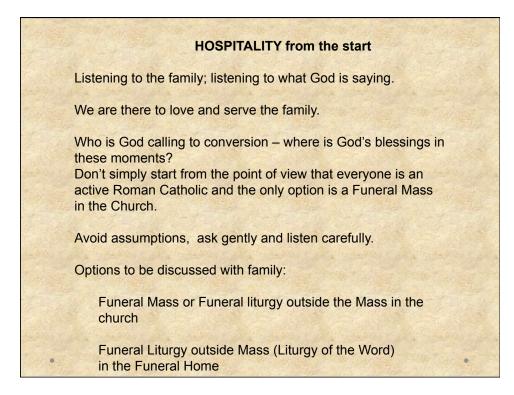


For the majority of funerals, there will be a wide range of religious realities ...

- Parishioners (active and not so active)
- Active Catholics from different parishes or dioceses
- Latin or Eastern Rite
- Estranged or lapsed Catholics
- Protestant brothers and sisters
- People of other religions/faiths
- People with no religious affiliation/belief
- People hostile/cynical/fearful to the Catholic or Christian tradition

We must reflect on where is God's blessing in this situation? How is God surprising someone / us?





Hospitality during the Funeral Liturgy

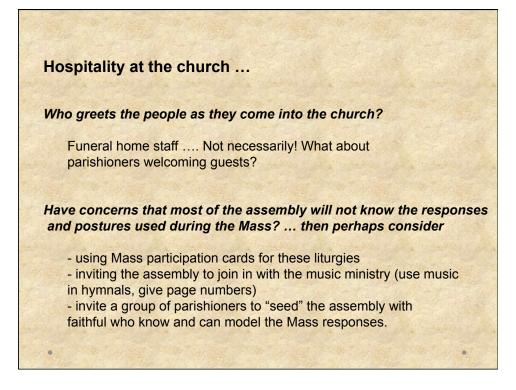
Don't compromise our symbols and rituals -- let the beauty of our liturgy show itself and be prepared to help those present understand the symbols and ritual actions.

Evangelization with joy becomes beauty in the liturgy, as part of our daily concern to spread goodness. The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving.

Pope Francis Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium #24

The physicality of our rituals and symbols reflect our incarnational faith.

Presiders must engage the rituals with skill, and they must do so In a manner that manifests hospitality and authenticity.



Presiders – What can you do to create a welcoming atmosphere?

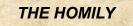
Explicitly acknowledge and welcome the guests from the start.

Instruct the assembly as to postures and actions throughout the liturgy... invite them with gestures and words

Explain what is happening at key stages in the liturgy (think in terms of Commentator function). This can be done by Presider or another person who is prepared and working with the presider.

Invite readers up to the ambo during the Liturgy of the Word ; Use their names to call them forward; let the readers know that you will be there for them if they need support in a moment of distress.

In a simple one line sentence explain the Eucharistic prayer as an ancient traditional prayer of the Church.



"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we we believe that Jesus dies and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died." St Paul 1 Letter to Thessalonians 4:13-14

Homilies must be kerygmatic – proclaiming the Good News but clearly with recognition of the deceased.

- reserve one reading (Gospel) for the presider to select.
- NO EULOGIES during the Funeral Mass;
- use Vigils more effectively or encourage eulogies at the reception.

Funeral Mass -- Liturgy of the Eucharist

In any mixed assembly, we are called to understand and accept that things may be "messy" and to remember ...

THE LORD MADE HIMSELF VULNERABLE and we can view the events around the Liturgy of the Eucharist in this setting as a time of such vulnerability.

It is not the time to make decisions as to whether the person coming to communion should or should not receive. This is a complex issue. We have to ask:

? Do you truly have all the information needed at that moment to deny someone the sacrament?

? What would the consequences be of challenging or denying someone at that moment? To that person? To others witnessing?

People may approach for communion out of ignorance, but rarely malice!

How might we guide the mixed assembly regarding the Liturgy of the Eucharist at a Funeral Mass?

Say something and say it with compassion and respect for those present.

One suggestion from Fr James Mallon:

"By coming up to receive the Eucharist (Holy Communion, Host) you are making a public declaration that you are an active Catholic."

Other wording can be used but make sure it is simple, clear & understandable.

Those who are not, should be comfortable remaining standing in their place (standing as a sign of respect for the Communion Rite, or do we need to pastorally adapt the standing in unity during communion?)

Invitation to come up for a blessing (clear instruction on receiving communion Versus hand posture for a blessing) or prayer.

