

# THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

Decree of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Editorial Note  
Decree

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

General Introduction 1-49

### **PART I: FUNERAL RITES** 50

#### VIGIL AND RELATED RITES AND PRAYERS 51-53

Vigil for the Deceased 54-81  
Vigil for the Deceased with a Rite of Reception at the Church 82-97  
Related Rites and Prayers 98-100  
    Prayers after Death 101-108  
    Gathering in the Presence of the Body 109-118  
    Transfer of the Body to Church or to the Place of Committal 119-127

#### FUNERAL LITURGY 128-153

Funeral Mass 154-176  
Funeral Liturgy outside Mass 177-203

#### RITE OF COMMITTAL 204-215

Rite of Committal 216-223  
Rite of Committal with Final Commendation 224-233

### **PART II: FUNERAL RITES FOR CHILDREN** 234-242

#### VIGIL 243-246

Vigil for a Deceased Child 247-263

#### FUNERAL LITURGY 264-275

Funeral Mass 276-294  
Funeral Liturgy outside Mass 295-315

#### RITE OF COMMITTAL 316-318

Rite of Committal 319-326  
Rite of Committal with Final Commendation 327-336  
Rite of Committal for an Infant 337-342

### **PART III: TEXTS OF SACRED SCRIPTURE** 343-347

Funerals for Adults  
Funerals for Baptized Children  
Funerals for Children Who Died Before Baptism  
Antiphons and Psalms

<b><u>PART IV: OFFICE FOR THE DEAD</u></b>	348-372
Morning Prayer	373-384
Evening Prayer	385-395
Additional Hymns	396

**PART V: ADDITIONAL TEXTS**

Prayers and Texts in Particular Circumstances	
Prayers for the Dead	398
Prayers for Mourners	399
Placing of Christian Symbols	400
General Intercessions and Litanies	401
Final Commendation and Farewell	402-404
Invitation to Prayer	
Song of Farewell	
Prayer of Commendation	
Rite of Committal	405-408
Prayer over the Place of Committal	
Committal	
Intercessions	
Concluding Prayer	
Holy Communion outside Mass	409-410
Introduction: Funerals in the Presence of Cremated Remains	411-431
Presence of the Body at the Funeral Liturgy	
Respect for the Cremated Remains of the Body	
The Funeral Liturgy	
When cremation takes place following the Funeral Liturgy	
When cremation takes place before the Funeral Liturgy	
The Funeral Liturgy in the presence of cremated remains	
Additional Texts: Funerals in the Presence of Cremated Remains	432-438
Greeting	
Sprinkling with Holy Water	
Alternative Form of Dismissal	
Committal of Cremated Remains	

Appendix:     *Ordo Exsequiarum*, 1969, Introduction  
                   Biblical Index

By means of the funeral rites it has been the practice of the Church  
                   ... not simply to commend the dead to God  
 but also to raise high the hope of its children and to give witness to its own faith  
                   in the future resurrection of the baptized with Christ.  
                   ~ Decree, Order of Christian Funerals  
                   August 15, 1969