

# DIOCESE OF DALLAS

## Funeral Mass Policy

## **Policy for Funeral Masses**

August 2001

To Pastors and Funeral Home Directors:

The funerals of Catholics are governed by regulations contained within the *Order of Christian Funerals* which is our ritual book for funeral services. Drawing from the regulations we would ask you to please follow these points of protocol in the Diocese of Dallas.

- When you are contacted by a family identified as Catholic, please call their parish office at your earliest possible convenience to determine the availability of the church and parish staff. The date, time and minister need to be confirmed before a commitment to the family is made.
- The primary Funeral Rites specified for Catholics include: a vigil for the deceased, the funeral liturgy (funeral Mass) and the Rite of Committal (graveside service).
- The Funeral Mass must be celebrated in properly designated churches or chapels of the Diocese. No permission is granted for the funeral Mass to be celebrated in the funeral home or chapel.
- Mausoleum chapels of our Catholic Cemeteries should not be considered as alternatives to the parish church.
- A specific Priest or Deacon who knows the circumstances of a family might deem it appropriate to modify services to better meet the needs of that family.

If you would like further clarification of these regulations or have any questions, please contact the Diocesan Liturgy Office, 214-528-2240