

The Procession to the Cemetery

As you enter your cars to drive to the cemetery, you participate in an important part of today's funeral.

The procession bridges two periods of prayer—one at the church and the other at the place of committal. The procession imitates the journey of life, the passage of time, the leaving of one destination and arriving at the next.

Usually the procession takes the most direct route. In some traditions the cars drive past the home of the deceased, as if to offer a final farewell.

You may use your time in the car in various ways—in conversation with other mourners, in silence, or in prayer.

If you want to talk with others, here are some questions you may want to ask:

- What was the highlight of the funeral?
- What words from the Scripture readings struck you?
- When you think back on the homily, what was the best part? Are there some words that you want to remember?
- Did some of the music move you? Which song? How did you feel about it? What words do you remember from that song?
- What about the ritual actions? Did anything strike you about what the ministers did? The decorations in the church? The actions that were performed? The holy water? The incense?

If you'd like to pray while you're in the car on your way to the cemetery, you have many options.

If someone would like to lead the rosary, you may recite it en route.

If someone would like to read something from Scripture, you may find a Bible on someone's cellular device, or you may search the web for Bible passages.

For example, if you are able to locate the book of Psalms, here are some that you might find appropriate: Psalms 23, 25, 42, 51, 93, 114 and 115:1-12, 116, 118, 119, 121, 122, 123, 126, 130, 132, or 134.

However you spend your time, you will be in a vehicle with people experiencing grief in different ways. You will help one another while you are traveling, as we all aim to do on the road of life.