

November

Praying for the Dead

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November is the month when the Church urges us to reflect on our own mortality. Beginning with All Saints and All Souls Days, we have several weeks to reflect upon the death of a Christian.

The *Order of Christian Funerals* [OCF] is the rite proper to the liturgical celebrations of the funeral rites. While these rites are well known to most Catholic clergy and lay leaders, there is a section of the OCF which sometimes is overlooked. Part V, simply titled “Additional Texts,” is a treasure trove of prayers and texts to be used in particular circumstances, including

- ◆ Additional prayers for the dead (these prayers may be used at the Vigil, as the Collect of the Funeral Mass, as a prayer concluding the General Intercessions, or at the graveside.
 - ◇ 13 general prayers
 - ◇ 10 prayers for clergy and religious
 - ◇ 1 prayer for one who worked in the service of the Gospel
 - ◇ 2 prayers for a baptized child
 - ◇ 2 prayers for a young person
 - ◇ 2 prayers for parents
 - ◇ 3 prayers for married couples
 - ◇ 1 prayer each for a husband and wife
 - ◇ 1 prayer for a deceased non-Christian married to a Catholic
 - ◇ 2 prayers for an elderly person
 - ◇ 2 prayers for one who died after a long illness
 - ◇ 1 prayer for one who died suddenly
 - ◇ 1 prayer for one who died accidentally or violently
 - ◇ 2 prayers for one who died by suicide
 - ◇ 2 prayers for several persons
- ◆ Prayers for the Mourners
 - ◇ 7 general prayers
 - ◇ 5 for those mourning the death of a baptized child
 - ◇ 2 prayers for those mourning the death of a child who died before baptism
 - ◇ 1 prayer for those mourning for a still-born child
- ◆ Alternative texts for the placing of Christian Symbols
- ◆ Additional General Intercessions and Litanies (included some specifically to be used for the funeral of a deceased child)
- ◆ Additional texts for the Final Commendation and Farewell
 - ◇ 5 alternative Invitations to Prayer
 - ◇ 7 alternative Songs of Farewell
 - ◇ 1 Prayer of Commendation for a baptized person
 - ◇ 2 Prayers of Commendation for a baptized child