

## 'TEST YOUR FAITH' QUIZ FOR ADULT

October 25, 2020

"CATHOLIC FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS"

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*(Scroll down to pages 2 & 3 for the correct answers)*

1. In Canada, Catholic Funeral Masses are not allowed on certain days.
2. Proper Catholic Funerals must always include a Prayer Vigil (Wake Service) prior to the celebration of the Funeral Mass or Service.
3. Catholic Funerals must always take place in the context of a Funeral Mass.
4. During a Catholic Funeral, many symbolic reminders of the deceased person's reception of Baptism are included in the ceremony.
5. Although it was once prohibited, Catholics can now choose to have their deceased relatives cremated.
6. A Ceremony for the deceased is called a Funeral Mass or Service if the body or the cremated remains are present. If not, it is called a Memorial Mass or Service.
7. Catholic Funeral Masses can either be celebrated in a Church or in a Chapel in the Funeral Home or Centre.
8. To have a Catholic Funeral Mass or Funeral Service, the deceased had to have been a Catholic at the time of his/her death.
9. Deacons can preside at Catholic Funeral Vigils but not at Catholic Funeral Services or Graveside Burials.
10. If for some reason the Funeral of a loved one is not celebrated, others can request a Memorial Mass to be celebrated for the deceased, at a later time.
11. The "Final Commendation" which takes place at the end of a Funeral is part of a Catholic Funeral Mass but not part of a Catholic Funeral Service.
12. Usually one eulogy (words of tribute) is permitted at a Funeral held in the church.
13. Catholic Funerals must take place in the deceased person's Parish Church.
14. A Funeral Pall is a white cloth that covers the casket or urn at a Catholic Funeral.
15. Cremated remains of Catholics should be buried in a cemetery and not scattered.

## CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ

- 1. TRUE** Funeral Masses in Canada are not allowed to take place on any Sunday of the Year, on Christmas Day or New Year's Day, and on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. If needed, on these days a Catholic Funeral Service without Mass can be celebrated for the deceased, instead.
- 2. FALSE** Catholics are encouraged to include all three parts of a Funeral (a Prayer Vigil, a Funeral Mass or Service and a Committal of the remains at the cemetery) in sequence. However, the Prayer Vigil can be omitted altogether and the Committal (burial) can be postponed. The Funeral Mass or Service is sufficient to have a proper Catholic Funeral.
- 3. FALSE** The bereaved family members can decide whether they prefer a Funeral Mass or a Funeral Service for their loved one. Either one is permitted for Catholics.
- 4. TRUE** During the Funeral Mass or Service at least four symbolic reminders of one's Baptism are included. 1. The body or ashes are blessed with blessed water at the beginning and at the end of the Funeral (reminder of the waters of baptism); 2. A white cloth covers the casket or urn (reminder of the white robe that everyone receives on their Baptismal Day); 3. The lighted Easter Candle is placed near the casket or urn (just as it is placed near the font at a person's Baptism), and; 4. The sign of the cross is made over the casket or urn at the end of the Funeral (just as the person was baptized, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit").
- 5. TRUE** Cremation was once prohibited by the Church for Catholics, in opposition to the custom of certain groups of atheistic and anti-Catholic Masons in Europe. Their practice was to have all their deceased Masonic members cremated to dramatically and publicly show their rejection of Catholicism and the Catholic Doctrine of the resurrection of the body. In most countries now, cremation is not chosen as an act of protest against the Church but simply as a particular preference. Hence, cremation is no longer prohibited.
- 6. TRUE** Many people often wrongly interchange and misuse these terms. Some think that a Mass or Service for the deceased person is called a "Funeral" only if the body is present in a casket, and a "Memorial" Mass or Service if the person was cremated and only the ashes are present in an urn. This is not the case.
- 7. FALSE** Funeral Services are allowed to be celebrated in the Chapel of a Funeral Centre but a Funeral Mass is not permitted to be celebrated there unless there is an urgent and very serious reason. In this case, the Bishop will rarely permit it to take place there.
- 8. FALSE** Catholic Funeral Masses or Services can be celebrated for those who are not of the Catholic Faith, if the family members request them. This often happens when the surviving spouse is a Catholic but the deceased person belonged to a different Faith.

9. **FALSE** Deacons can preside at all three. The only ceremony they cannot celebrate is a Funeral Mass.
10. **TRUE** Sometimes surviving family members prefer not to have a Catholic Funeral Mass or Service for their deceased loved one at all and they have every right to make this decision. However, other fellow parishioners or friends can request that a Memorial Mass (without the casket or urn present) be celebrated for the person at a later date and usually in his/her Parish Church so that other parishioners can attend, to pray for and to remember the deceased individual.
11. **FALSE** The Final Commendation always takes place at the end of a Catholic Funeral, both at a Funeral Mass and at a Funeral Service. However, if the Funeral Service is in the Funeral Home's Chapel, some parts of the commendation ritual are omitted (like the incensing of the remains). All the other prayers of Commendation are included.
12. **TRUE** Eulogies or "Words of Tribute" are designed to tell the life story or often to extol the virtues of the deceased person. For this reason, they are more appropriately delivered during a Visitation or a Prayer Vigil on the evening before the Funeral or at a Reception which usually takes place after the Funeral. These are the occasions when our focus should centre on the deceased loved one.  
At the Funeral Mass or Service, however, we gather to remember the deceased and to pray for him/her but not to focus on the person. Instead, at the Funeral, our focus is on the Risen Lord. At that Mass or Service, it is the Lord whom we thank for the person's life and Faith and for having granted the gifts and talents to the deceased that in turn were used to assist many others in this life.  
At the request of the family members though, usually one or even two brief eulogies can be delivered before the Funeral Mass or Service begins in the Church.
13. **FALSE** The bereaved family members can request that any Parish Church be used for the Funeral of a loved one. If the Funeral takes place in the Funeral Home Chapel, then any priest or deacon can be asked by the family to preside at the Service.
14. **TRUE** The word, "Pall", comes from the Latin word, "pallium", which means, "cloak". It is a reminder of the white robe or garment that one is given at Baptism.
15. **TRUE** The Church teaches that the body is sacred and, even after death, is to be treated with respect. For this reason, it encourages all Catholics to bury their deceased loved ones' bodies in a sacred place like a cemetery.  
If the deceased person has been cremated, then all the ashes or at least a good portion of them should also be buried in a sacred place and not scattered about or disposed of in a disrespectful way.