

Diocese of Dodge City
FUNERAL GUIDELINES
for

Priests or Deacons who have been removed or restricted from ministry

Preamble:

The following guidelines apply to funerals conducted for clergy in situations where the cleric has not been dismissed from the clerical state, but admitted to or was found guilty after a canonical process, of sexual abuse of a minor. Normally, a cleric is restricted from public ministry pursuant to the United States Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

When the cleric dies, the Bishop recognizes the sensitivity of a public celebration of the life of a cleric who has caused such harm. The Bishop's participation and the diocesan response will, to the extent possible, balance sensitivity to victims of abuse, the family of the deceased cleric and the concerned faithful.

Obituary:

1. Any public announcement or obituary may mention he was a priest (or deacon) of the diocese and list where he served, but should not use the title "Reverend" or "Father."
2. If there are concerns about public demonstrations, the public obituary announcement should exclude details regarding the date, time and location of the funeral liturgies and burial, but simply say these will be celebrated "at the convenience of the family."
3. The obituary in the Southwest Kansas Register, in addition to the items mentioned in #1, may list the date and location where the funeral liturgies and burial took place. Testimonial quotes and/or anecdotes about the decedent should be avoided.
4. All clerics of the diocese should receive notice about the death. The notice will contain details regarding the time and place of the funeral liturgies and burial and invite priests and deacons to participate.

Funeral Liturgies:

1. To be sensitive to victims and the potential for scandal, normally the funeral liturgies and/or burial should not be celebrated in parish in which the cleric had served.
2. The Bishop or his designate will be the celebrant and/or homilist. If the decedent or family specified a presider and/or homilist, this request will be honored to the degree it is possible or deemed appropriate.
3. The cleric is to be vested in an alb alone in the coffin.
4. If requested by the decedent or by the family, the cleric may be buried in the priest's section in a Catholic cemetery.
5. The title "Reverend" or "Father" may be included on the tombstone.

Reviewed by Bishop Ronald Gilmore 31 December 2009