

Order for Visiting a Cemetery

PROCESSION

If the service is to take place immediately after Mass and the cemetery is close to the parish church, the blessing and dismissal of the Mass are omitted and the procession to the cemetery is formed. When all have reached the cemetery, the minister addresses the people, using these or similar words:

MY dear friends, we gather today to pray for our brothers and sisters whose bodies lie here in rest. They have passed from death to life in company with the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life, and are purified now of their faults. We pray that God may welcome them among all the saints of heaven.

LITANY

While the following litany is sung or recited, the minister sprinkles the graves with holy water and, if desired, may also incense them.

Lord, have mercy *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy *Lord, have mercy.*

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
 pray for them.

Saint Michael the Archangel,
 pray for them.

Saint John the Baptist, *pray for them.*

Saint Joseph, *pray for them.*

Saint Peter, *pray for them.*

Saint Paul, *pray for them.*

Saint Andrew, *pray for them.*

Saint Stephen, *pray for them.*

Saint Ann, *pray for them.*

Saint Teresa, *pray for them.*

Saint Catherine, *pray for them.*

Saint Frances Cabrini, *pray for them.*

Saint Elizabeth Seton, *pray for them.*

(The names of other saints may be added.)

All holy men and women *pray for them.*

Christ, pardon all their faults:
 Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ, remember the good they have done:
 Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ, receive them into eternal life:
 Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ, comfort all those who mourn:
 Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, have mercy *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy *Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy *Lord, have mercy.*

With Christ there is mercy and the fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

PRAYER

ALL-POWERFUL God, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope, look kindly on your servants (*N. and N.*), who departed this life confessing your name, and number them among your saints for evermore. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or:

ALMIGHTY God and Father, by the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong; by the sacrament of the resurrection you have sealed us as your own. Look kindly upon your servants, now freed from the bonds of mortality, and count them among your saints in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

The minister says:

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

A priest or deacon adds:

MAY the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Then he blesses all present.

AND may almighty God bless you all, *A* the Father, and the Son, *¶* and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

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