


DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
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MEMORANDUM

10 May 2023

TO: *All Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians*
FM: *Reverend Keith A. Mathur, Director* 
RE: *Liturgical Guidance and Considerations: Death of Bishop Edward P. Cullen*
CC: *Parishes*
Diocesan Employees
Diocesan Schools

Upon the announcement of the death of Bishop Edward P. Cullen, the Office for Divine Worship provides the following liturgical resource for use in the Diocese of Allentown during this period of mourning:

- (1) Prayers upon the Announcement of the Death of Bishop Cullen
- (2) Masses for the Dead, # 4 *Various Prayers for the Dead*, # 2A (*For a Diocesan Bishop*)
- (3) Universal Prayer – Special Intercessions (English & Spanish)
- (4) Liturgy of the Hours – Office of the Dead
- (5) Eucharistic Prayer – reminder

Prayers upon the Announcement of the Death of Bishop Cullen

In the nine days leading up to the funeral Mass of Bishop Cullen, Bishop Schlert asks for the prayers of the faithful of the Diocese of Allentown for the deceased Bishop. The custom of praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father is to be encouraged, especially at the conclusion of Mass or with our Diocesan School Communities. The recitation of the Holy Rosary is also encouraged. Churches may display a portrait of Bishop Cullen near the sanctuary or the entrance of the Church with black bunting. Black bunting may also be hung on Church doors during this period of mourning, as well as bells of Churches may be tolled.

Masses for the Dead, # 4 Various Prayers for the Dead, # 2A (For a Diocesan Bishop)

The Roman Missal provides special texts to be used on the occasion of the death of a Diocesan Bishop. The Collect, Prayer over the Offerings, and Prayer after Communion may be used at Masses except on the days listed in nos. 1-4 of the table of liturgical days.

Notably, a Mass for the Dead #4 would not be permitted to take place on Sunday, 14 May 2023 (6th Sunday of Easter) or 18 May 2023 (The Solemnity of the Ascension)

While prayers and readings from the Masses for the Dead are not possible on these days, certainly, special intercessions during the Universal Prayer may be used.

Universal Prayer – Special Intercessions (English & Spanish)

That Bishop Cullen, called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, may rejoice forever at the banquet table of heaven. Let us pray to the Lord.

Que el Obispo Cullen, llamado al reino de los cielos por el Señor, se regocije por siempre en la mesa del banquete del cielo. Oremos al Señor.

That Bishop Cullen, who served the Church faithfully, may now worship with God forever in the liturgy of heaven. Let us pray to the Lord.

Que el Obispo Cullen, que sirvió fielmente a la Iglesia, pueda ahora adorar con Dios para siempre en la liturgia del cielo. Oremos al Señor.

For an increase of vocations to the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life: that more young men and women will generously respond to the call of the Lord to follow him. Let us pray to the Lord.

Por un aumento de las vocaciones al sacerdocio ya la vida consagrada: que más jóvenes y muchachas respondan con generosidad a la llamada del Señor a seguirlo. Oremos al Señor.

Liturgy of the Hours – Office of the Dead

Communities and individuals are encouraged to pray the Office of the Dead in the *Liturgy of the Hours* for the intention of Bishop Cullen. In a public celebration of Morning or Evening Prayer, a Bishop, Priest, or Deacon, may give a brief homily following the Reading.

Eucharistic Prayer – reminder

Since the See of Allentown is not vacant upon the death of a retired Bishop, there is no change in the Eucharistic Prayer. “For Francis, our Pope, and Alfred, our Bishop” remain the normative text within the territorial boundaries of the Diocese of Allentown.

When using a Mass for the Dead, any of the Prefaces for the Dead (I-V) may be used. The naming of the deceased is best done through the intercession for the dead in Eucharistic Prayer I, II, and III.

I: Remember also, Lord, your servant, Edward, our Bishop Emeritus, who has gone before us with the sign of faith and rests in the sleep of peace. Grant him, O Lord, we pray, and all who sleep in Christ, a place of refreshment, light, and peace.

II: Remember your servant Edward, our Bishop Emeritus whom you have called from this world to yourself. Grant that he who was united with your Son in a death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection.

III: Remember your servant Edward, our Bishop Emeritus whom you have called from this world to yourself. Grant that he who was united with your Son in a death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection, when from the earth he will raise up in the flesh those who have died, and transform our lowly body after the pattern of his own glorious body. To our departed brothers and sisters, too, and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance into your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory, when you will wipe away every tear from our eyes. For seeing you, our God, as you are, we shall be like you for all the ages and praise you without end, through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow in the world all that is good.

Thank you for your kind attention to these guidelines and for your Masses and prayers for the happy repose of the soul of Bishop Edward P. Cullen.