

Ministry to the Dying

For Christians, death is a defeated enemy. The Apostle Paul reminds the Church in Corinth:

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. -1 Corinthians 15:54-57

When a person is near death, the minister should be notified. This is part of the Church's pastoral care.

The burial of a Christian is an occasion of both sorrow and joy - our sorrow in the face of death, and our joy in Jesus' promise of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

The Christian burial proclaims, "life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body dies we are still alive in Christ.

The Christian burial looks forward to eternal life rather than backwards to past events. It calls us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and his triumph over death, even as we celebrate the life and the witness of the deceased.