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# Funeral For Mother, Son

FUNERAL from A3

seasonally warm fall day, outside the tan brick church where Chris was baptized. "But he was still smiling, trying to get people to laugh again."

That was how many recalled Christopher on Friday.

"Chris was one of the happiest people I knew," said his younger sister, Caitlan. "Everything he did, he had a big smile on his face. That's the way we should remember him."

In one of the few light moments, Caitlan recalled how her brother would charge a heavy toll for taking her home from sports practice — making her tell him she loved him in front of her friends.

It was embarrassing, she said. But it was a true statement.

Later, Caitlan Lawler broke down along with dozens of mourners when recalling her mother, a beloved community member and a devoted executive secretary at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, which is part of the Archdiocese of Brooklyn.

"She was the most unselfish person I ever met," Caitlan said. "One of her kids being happy is all that made her happy.

"We were all family by chance, best friends by choice," she added. Caitlan has a sister, Jennifer, and another brother, Brendan.

A prayer vigil for the families of the crash victims, coordinated by the mayor's office and State Assemb. Adriano Espaillat (D-Washington Heights), will be held Sunday at Jacob Riis Park, starting at 2 p.m. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is expected to attend.

No formal fund-raisers have yet been established, but students at the Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns and Rockaway in Cedarhurst, Long Island, have started taking up a collection.

At Friday's funeral, pallbearers carried the coffins of mother and son from the church, to the strains of bagpipes from the Correction Department drum and pipe band. The hundreds assembled stood motionless as a wind blew off the Atlantic Ocean, two blocks to the south.

Meanwhile, one block north, emergency crews continued to sift through the ashes of the crash.

*Staff writer Merle English contributed to this report.*

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