



## What are the questions that should be asked and answered to help guide an end of life conversation?

- What are your end-of-life wishes?
- Do they comport with the principles of your faith?
- Are you sure about these wishes? Do you want to discuss any of them more or seek further information on them?
- Do you have a health care proxy?
- Is your proxy aware of your wishes?
- Do you have a desire to receive hospice care?
- Would you like a Spiritual Leader/Priest to be made available for prayer/comfort?
- Are your doctors aware of your wishes when it comes to the health care you would like provided if you become incapacitated?
- Is your family aware of your end of life wishes?
- Have you taken time to research, think about and pray over the desires you have decided on?

***Human life is the most precious gift from God.***

We believe that life is sacred from conception until natural death. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, issues that arise regarding end-of-life topics can often be difficult to understand. All human lives hold inherent dignity, and “those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect.” (CCC # 2276)

If you or a loved one has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out and contact us for any assistance that we can provide.

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## AT THE HOUR OF MY DEATH

*Important information and resources regarding end-of-life issues*



## Key definitions for further understanding:

**Advance medical directive:** A legal document through which an individual may designate a specific person to make health care decisions for them should they become incapable of making decisions, and which may declare the health care treatments they would desire should incapacitation occur.

**Hospice care:** A service promoting compassionate care for the dying by providing physical, spiritual and emotional resources for terminally-ill patients and their families. Hospice services may be provided in a home setting or in an institutional setting.

**Informed consent:** a decision freely made in the full possession of one's mental faculties and with adequate knowledge of all relevant medical and moral consequences.

**"Right-to-die":** A social movement that, contrary to Church teaching, promotes the right of an individual to take his/her own life or receive assistance to end his/her life prematurely.

## Websites and Resources

### **Now and at the Hour of Our Death**

Educational website on end of life issues produced by the New York State Catholic Conference.

[www.CatholicEndofLife.org](http://www.CatholicEndofLife.org)

### **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) [Catechism of the Catholic Church available on website]

“For Catholics, death is not the end but the beginning, the beginning of eternal life with God the Father. Our faith assures us that we ‘look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come, Amen.’”

~[CatholicEndofLife.org](http://CatholicEndofLife.org)

### **Patients' Rights Action Fund**

PRAF provides financial and strategic support throughout the U.S. to protect the rights of patients and people with disabilities by opposing doctor prescribed suicide legislation.

[patientsrightsaction.org](http://patientsrightsaction.org)

### **Patients Right Council**

Addressing euthanasia, assisted suicide, advance directives, disability rights, pain control and more.  
[www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site](http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site)



### **Prayer for Life by Pope John Paul II**

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,  
Mother of the living, to you do we  
entrust the cause of life: Look down, O  
Mother, upon the vast numbers of  
babies to be born, of the poor whose  
lives are made difficult, of men and  
women who are victims of brutal  
violence, of the elderly and the sick  
killed by indifference or out of  
misguided mercy. Grant that all who  
believe in your Son may proclaim  
the Gospel of life with honesty and love  
to the people of our time. Obtain for  
them the grace to accept that Gospel as  
a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it  
with gratitude throughout their lives  
and the courage to bear witness to it  
resolutely, in order to build, together  
with all people of good will, the  
civilization of truth and love, to the  
praise and glory of God, the Creator and  
lover of life. **Amen**

