

## MAKE YOUR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS NOW

Today's Prices for Tomorrow's Needs

BY KEITH REZENDES

**A**S CATHOLICS, we understand that preparing for death is an important part of our life's journey and faith. It is a vital process that will prepare us for the moment we enter eternity. Through our faith, we learn how to be prepared for that moment; but there are also practical preparations that should be completed before that time is upon us. Much like how financial planning allows us to have a pleasant, retired life one day, pre-planning for our final resting place prepares us for the day we will be face-to-face with our Lord and Savior.

► Below are some valuable guidelines for paying today's price for tomorrow's needs.

- Selecting a final resting place is a family decision that often becomes a place of special peace and comfort to the generations that follow. Your thoughts and decisions surrounding this planning are, for many, some of the most heartfelt and lasting memories a family share with each other.

In these quiet moments, family members can take their time in choosing their family monument and share the stories and meaning behind their selections.

- The day a loved one passes into eternal life should be a day of joy and celebration of their life on Earth. However, it is also a day of loss and pain for many. Knowing these final arrangements are already in place is a gift of peace of mind for your loved ones. They feel assurance that during this very difficult time, everything is exactly as you would have wanted it.
- In a practical sense, purchasing at today's rates or on a payment plan, if that makes it easier, locks in the costs and avoids the stress of estate settlement or other financial decisions.

Taking the first step is the hardest step. Call or stop by our office at San Lorenzo Catholic Cemetery in St. Augustine, where we can guide you in making your final arrangements. Do not leave these decisions for your family to make at the time of death. A loved one can become so overwhelmed that sometimes the consolations of our faith are not taken into consideration. Consider discussing these matters today so that your family can focus on what's important later – knowing that you are at peace in Heaven so that they can feel peace on Earth. 🙏

*Keith Rezendes is the director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Diocese of St. Augustine. Contact him by email, [krezendes@dosall.com](mailto:krezendes@dosall.com) or call (904) 824-6680.*



**St. Ambrose Catholic Church  
Local Funeral Homes**

**St. Augustine, Florida**

**St. Johns Family Funeral Home**

385 SR 207

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Telephone: (904) 824-1625

Website: [stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com)

**Craig Funeral Home**

1475 Old Dixie Highway

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Telephone: (904) 824-1672

Website: [Craigfuneralhome.com](http://Craigfuneralhome.com)

**Palatka, Florida**

**Johnson-Overturf Funeral Home & Crematory**

307 South Palm Ave.

Palatka, FL 32177

Telephone: (386)325-4521

Website: [j-ofunerals.com](http://j-ofunerals.com)

# Diocese of St. Augustine Cemeteries

Catholic Cemeteries cherishes and keeps vigil with our departed loved ones awaiting the bodily resurrection by tending to their resting places, praying for their souls and comforting their loved ones as they sleep at San Lorenzo Cemetery in St. Augustine, Fla. or St. Mary Cemetery in Korona, Fla. We also serve as a resource to parishes that operate a cemetery or columbaria within the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Below is a list of our diocesan and parish cemeteries, memorial gardens and columbaria.

## **Gate of Heaven Cemetery** *\*On the grounds of Prince of Peace Parish*

6320 Bennett Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

### **Cemetery Hours:**

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Office Hours:**

Monday – Friday: By appointment

### **Services provided:**

- Exclusive to cremations
- Columbarium inurnments
- In-ground cremation burials
- Memorial markers
- Cremation vaults
- Cremation urns
- Other decor

## **San Lorenzo Cemetery**

1635 US 1 South  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

### **Cemetery Hours:**

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Office Hours:**

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Services provided:**

- Ground burial (traditional and cremation)
- Baby section
- Markers and Monuments
- Vases and bases
- Vaults (traditional and cremation)
- Cremation urns
- Ceramic pictures and other décor



# Diocese of St. Augustine Cemeteries

## St. Mary Cemetery

21 Cemetery Road  
Bunnell, FL 32110

### Cemetery Hours:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Services provided:

Ground burial (traditional only)  
Family mausoleums  
Markers and monuments  
Vases and bases  
Vaults (traditional and cremation)  
Cremation urns  
Ceramic pictures and other décor

## Parish Cemeteries

City	Cemetery	Contact
Crescent City	St. John the Baptist Cemetery	(386) 698-2055
Elkton	St. Ambrose Cemetery	(904) 692-1366
Fernandina Beach	St. Michael Cemetery (closed)	(904) 261-3472
High Springs	St. Madeleine Memorial Gardens & Cemetery	(386) 454-2358
Hilliard	St. Theresa Cemetery	(904) 879-3662
Jacksonville	St. Joseph Cemetery (closed)	(904) 359-0331
	St. Joseph Cemetery	(904) 268-5422
Mill Creek	Our Lady of Good Counsel Cemetery	(904) 824-8688
Palatka	St. Monica Cemetery	(386) 325-9777
St. Augustine	Tolomato Cemetery (closed)	(904) 824-2806
	Mission Nombre de Dios (closed)	(904) 824-2806

## Parish Columbaria

City	Columbaria	Contact
Elkton	St. Ambrose Cemetery	(904) 692-1366
Fleming Island	Sacred Heart Parish	(904) 284-3811
Jacksonville	San José Parish	(904) 733-1630
Palm Coast	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish	(386) 445-2246
Ponte Vedra Beach	Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish	(904) 285-2698
St. Augustine	St. Anastasia Parish	(904) 471-5364
St. Johns	San Juan del Rio Parish	(904) 287-0519



**ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY**  
**Elkton, Florida**

**COLUMBARIUM PRICES**

**Parishioner**

(An active Catholic who is formally registered, active in the Parish and financially supporting the parish for a minimum of 12 calendar months.)

Wall Columbarium Single	\$2,600.00
Wall Columbarium Double	\$3,800.00
Round Columbarium Double	\$4,100.00
One Additional Urn in Round Columbarium	\$1,200.00

**Non-Parishioner**

Wall Columbarium Single	\$2,900.00
Wall Columbarium Double	\$4,300.00
Round Columbarium Double	\$4,700.00
One Additional Urn in Round Columbarium	\$1,400.00

**Note:**

Our Maximum Costs for Inscriptions Included in Above Pricing

Single -	\$445.00
Wall Double -	\$640.00
Round Double -	\$825.00

**CEMETERY GRAVE SITE PRICES**

<b>Grave Site Only Price for a Parishioner</b> (Does Not Include Open/Close or Headstone)	\$1,400.00
<b>Grave Site Price Only Price for a Non-Parishioner</b> (Does Not Include Open/Close or Headstone)	\$2,700.00



# Funeral Arrangement Preparation Forms

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Funeral Liturgy Preparation Forms are necessary to plan properly a funeral. The family meets with the pastor or office staff to complete a "Funeral Arrangement Form" that provides personal information of the deceased and next of kin, the funeral data information (date, time, funeral home contact information, etc.) and the funeral specifics (Readers, Altar Servers, Prayers/Readings, etc.). *This form is for office use and therefore is not included in the packet.*

Prior to the funeral, the family will be asked to complete a "Personal History Sheet" for the deceased. The information on this form assists the priest in preparing a homily that brings a personal touch regarding the deceased. This form is included in the packet.

Additionally, the family will provide the names of deceased relative and friends for the Prayer of the Faithful.

The family will select readings and music from the choices provided below:

## **Funeral Reading Suggestions:**

One Scripture passage from each section is to be selected:

First Reading:

From the Book of Revelation – (21:1-5a, 6b-7)

From the Book of the Prophet Isais – (25:6a, 7-9)

From the Book of Wisdom (Short Form) – (3:1-6, 9)

Responsorial Psalm: Often the Psalm is sung by the Cantor

Psalm (25:6, 7b, 17-18, 20-21) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Psalm (23:1-3, 4,5, 6) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm (27:1, 4, 7, 8b, 9a, 13-14) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading:

From the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans – (5:5-11)

From the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (Short Form) – (6:3-4, 8-9)

From the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (Long Form) – (6:3-9)

From the First Letter of Saint John (3:1-2)

Gospel:

John (Long Form) – 11:17-27)

Matthew (5:1-12a)

John (14:1-6)

John (5:24-29)

John (6:37-40)

John (6:51-59)



# Funeral Arrangement Preparation Forms

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## **Funeral Music Suggestions:**

*The sacred and communal nature of our Catholic Funeral Celebrations requires careful planning in the selection of music. This planning will ensure the ability of all those gathered to actively participate in the celebration.*

*There are many wonderful hymns that may be used throughout the funeral liturgy. Some of these hymns, found in the Breaking Bread Hymnal in our pews, are listed below:*

### **Gathering Hymns**

Abide with Me  
All Creatures of Our God and King  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus  
Morning Has Broken  
O God Our Help In Ages Past  
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

### **Presentation of Gifts**

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman  
Hosea  
How Can I Keep From Singing  
How Great Thou Art  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
Only A Shadow  
Prayer of St. Francis  
Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling  
These Alone Are Enough  
We Walk by Faith

### **Holy Communion**

Be Not Afraid  
Gift of Finest Wheat  
Here I Am, Lord  
I Am the Bread of Life  
Keep in Mind  
On Eagle's Wings  
Panis Angelicus  
Shepherd Me, O God  
You Are Near

### **Final Commendation**

Song of Farewell

### **Recessional Hymns**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
Amazing Grace  
For All the Saints  
Go Forth  
Healing River of the Spirit  
Lead Me, Guide Me



# St. Ambrose Catholic Church Personal History of Deceased

Full Name of Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (as to be said at the Funeral): \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parishioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Married: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Divorced: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Information (Living/Deceased): \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_ Living/Deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandchildren: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers and Sisters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 1.) What are some of the qualities that make this person special? (For example: caring, a great listener, brought out the goodness in others, loving, hard-working, sense of humor, family centered, overcame great obstacles, courageous...)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2.) Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



3.) Special Interests/Hobbies/Talents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4.) How did this person see his/her relationship with God? (Mass, Rosary, involvement in Parish Ministry or Community Service...) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5.) Please add any additional information you feel would be helpful to the Priest:

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6.) US Military Service and honors:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## St. Ambrose Catholic Church

### Financial Preparations

Should you seek guidance concerning end-of-life and estate planning matters you should contact an estate planning attorney. Among the topics you will discuss at an estate planning appointment are methods in which your family can avoid the time and expense of probate, and whether additional planning should be considered to minimize any estate tax payable by your family after your death.

Some of the methods to consider:

- A **Durable Power of Attorney** is a document that authorizes a person pre-selected by you to sign your name to legal documents and help manage financial and legal decisions on your behalf.
- A **Healthcare Surrogate** document authorizes a person designated by you to make healthcare and medical treatment decisions on your behalf if you are in a condition where you cannot speak for yourself.
- A **Living Will** memorializes a person's wishes for medical treatment near the end of his or her life. It contains directions for the type of medical care you wish to receive if you become incapable of expressing your desires concerning treatment.
- Often a key component of any estate plan is a **Last Will and Testament** and/or a **Living Trust**. These documents ensure that beneficiaries you choose receive assets from your estate in an efficient manner and with as little argument as possible. It is important that such documents be kept up to date and specify a person's final wishes so that those wishes are observed and the possibility of familial conflict lessened.

If you desire to leave a gift of faith, or a bequest in your Will, there are various ways that you may contribute to St. Ambrose Parish.

- General Use - General operational expenses
- Construction/growth – New buildings, renovations
- Education – Religious education, Catholic School scholarships
- Ministries – The ministry dear to your heart

If you would like more information please contact the Parish office at 904-692-1366.



## What Can I Do?

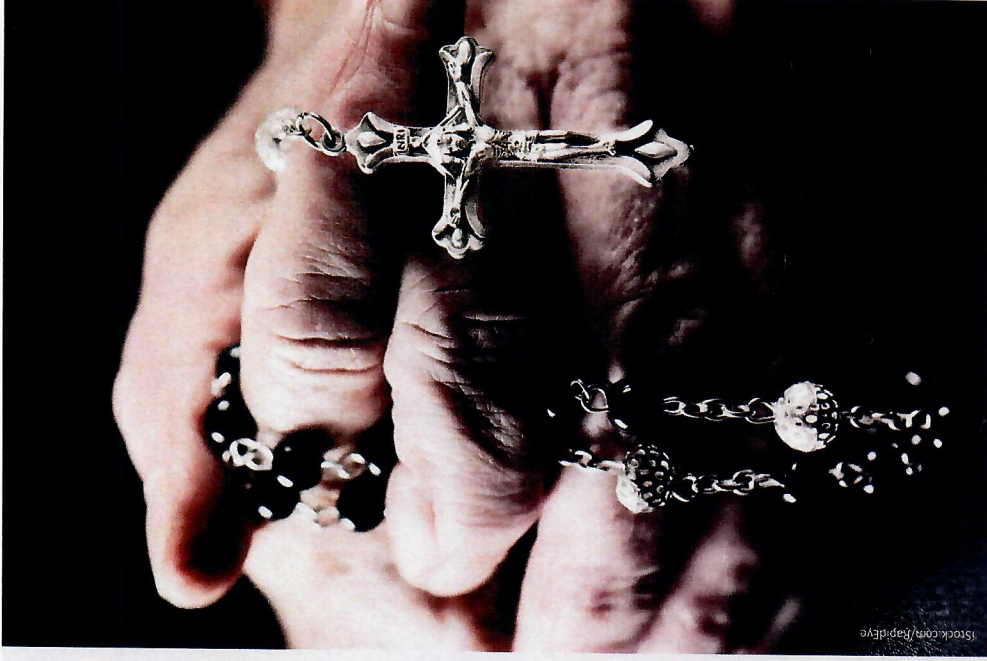
- **Become informed:** Explore resources on end-of-life planning. Consult with your physicians and other health care providers, clergy, family members and friends. It is important for you to understand your health care treatment options.
- **Select your health care surrogate:** Choose someone you trust to help make decisions if you are unable. Select someone who will objectively respect your wishes. Your surrogate can be a family member or trusted friend.
- **Decide what matters to you:** Decisions regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), pain management and other concerns should be made following an end-of-life discussion with physicians and other health care providers.
- **Share your medical decisions with others:** State your preferences for medical care in advance. This will relieve your family from making tough decisions during a very difficult time and provide guidance to your surrogate if you are unable to communicate. In your conversations with family members and friends, it is not necessary that they agree with you. These are your decisions and they should be respected.
- **Create a plan:** Document your end-of-life decisions and to share copies with your physicians and other health care providers, your health care surrogate, clergy and family members. Update your plan periodically, especially if there are significant changes in your medical condition. Keep your family members and health care surrogate informed of any changes to your preferences for medical care.
- **Join FICAN:** Subscribe to the Florida Catholic Advocacy Network at [www.flaccb.org](http://www.flaccb.org) and receive updates and alerts on end-of-life legislation.

## Prayer for the Grace of a Happy Death

*St. Joseph, in the popular piety of the Church, has been considered the patron saint of those dying since he himself had the privilege of dying in the arms of Mary and Jesus. "Since we all must die, we should cherish a special devotion to St. Joseph, that he may obtain for us a happy death." (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)*

**O Blessed Joseph,  
you gave your last breath in the loving  
embrace of Jesus and Mary.  
When the seal of death shall close my life,  
come with Jesus and Mary to aid me.  
Obtain for me this solace for that hour –  
to die with their holy arms around me.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
I commend my soul, living and dying,  
into your sacred arms.  
Amen.**

Source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/assisted-suicide/to-live-each-day/upload/prayer-resources.pdf>



## Culture of Life Series

Florida Catholic Conference/  
Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops  
201 West Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-7715  
(850) 222-3803

This brochure and others in the Culture of Life Series are available to view and print at:  
[www.flaccb.org/culture-of-life](http://www.flaccb.org/culture-of-life)

*"...I am going to prepare  
a place for you..."*

John 14:2

# End-of-Life Planning: A Catholic Introduction



## Confronting our Death with the Confidence of Faith

Life is a precious gift from God. Our faith acknowledges the value and inviolable dignity of all life, from its earliest to its final stages.

We are called to confront our mortality with the confidence of faith, uniting our own death with that of Jesus' as a step towards him and an entrance into everlasting life.<sup>1</sup>

*The dignity of this life is linked not only to its beginning, to the fact that it comes from God, but also to its final end, to its destiny of fellowship with God in knowledge and love of him.*

*Evangelium Vitae*, No. 38

When nearing the end of life, many persons are not physically, mentally, or cognitively able to make decisions about their care. Studies demonstrate that the care patients receive is not necessarily the care they want. For example, most Americans prefer to die at home, yet most actually die in institutional settings like hospitals and nursing homes.<sup>2</sup>

The Catholic bishops of Florida encourage the faithful to prepare for the unknown hour of death. The guidance provided here will help to ensure that loved ones know our wishes if communication becomes impossible and that our care will be aligned with the faith we hold dear.

<sup>1</sup> *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1020

<sup>2</sup> *Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life*. Institute of Medicine, September 2014

## Having the Conversation

Most people agree it is important to discuss end-of-life planning with family members and loved ones, clergy, physicians and other health professionals, and their health care surrogate. However, only a small percentage of individuals do so.<sup>3</sup> Each of us is our own best advocate, and it is therefore important to make an end-of-life conversation a priority.

There may never be a perfect time to talk about dying and end-of-life medical decisions. However, initiating these difficult discussions is ultimately a gift to loved ones as it may ease the burden of family members having to make tough decisions if life-threatening illness arises.

<sup>3</sup> *Final Chapter: Californians' Attitudes and Experiences with Death and Dying*. California HealthCare Foundation, February 2012

*Christ's redemption and saving grace embrace the whole person, especially in his or her illness, suffering, and death...In the face of death – for many, a time when hope seems lost – the Church witnesses to her belief that God has created each person for eternal life.*

*Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Part Five, USCCB, 2018

## Resources

End-of-life planning creates a number of challenges for family members, loved ones and health care professionals. These situations entail clinical, financial, ethical, social and legal considerations. It is important to explore resources that assist one in reviewing the options in each subject area.

The *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death (CDLD)* helps to document your decisions regarding end-of-life care or treatment and your selection of a health care surrogate in a format that can be shared with your physician(s) other health care providers, your health care surrogate, family members and friends.

The *CDLD* is the only health care advance directive that is promulgated by the Catholic bishops of Florida. This directive conforms to both Florida law and the teaching of the Catholic Church. Confer with your parish priest if using other advance care planning documents or resources.

*Understanding the Catholic Declaration on Life and Death (UCDDL)* provides guidance for completing the CDLD.

The *CDLD* and *UCDDL* may be found in English and Spanish at: [www.flacathconf.org/declaration-on-life-and-death](http://www.flacathconf.org/declaration-on-life-and-death).

Additional resources from the Catholic bishops of Florida addressing end-of-life care are available at: [www.flaccb.org/end-of-life-care](http://www.flaccb.org/end-of-life-care).



# UNDERSTANDING THE CATHOLIC DECLARATION ON LIFE AND DEATH

September 18, 2010

## What is the Catholic Declaration on Life and Death?

The *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* is a health care advance directive for Florida's Catholics and is approved by the Bishops of Florida. This directive conforms to both Florida law and the teaching of the Church.

## What is an "advance directive"?

A health care advance directive is a written or oral statement made and witnessed in advance of serious illness or injury to address medical situations that may arise when a person becomes unable to make one's own decisions. Executing an advance directive exercises good stewardship over the gift of life.

There are two forms of advance directives: the *designation of health care surrogate*, which authorizes a person to make decisions for the incapacitated patient, and the *living will*, which gives instructions to physicians and caregivers regarding medical care and treatment at the end of life. The *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* merges both forms into one directive.

## Designation of Health Care Surrogate

Every adult, 18 years of age and older, should choose at least one health care surrogate (and alternate) and designate this choice in writing. Unexpected health crises often involve complex treatment options, and having a surrogate who is prepared and authorized to make decisions for the patient helps to ensure the patient's wishes are respected.

The health care surrogate should be chosen carefully as someone who will represent the patient's wishes regarding medical care and treatment or act in the patient's best interest if those wishes are unknown.

The "Living Will" section of the *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* gives the surrogate a basic framework for understanding the patient's wishes regarding end-of-life care or treatment. Discussing goals, hopes, options and concerns with one's surrogate and family will provide the surrogate helpful information and can comfort all involved if and when future decisions are made on one's behalf.

## Living Will

A living will specifies one's wishes should a person become unable to express those wishes at the time health care decisions are needed at the end of life. There are many forms of living wills available, some of which are not consistent with Catholic teaching.

## What if no surrogate is available or no surrogate is designated?

A section of the *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* provides guidance regarding end-of-life care and treatment to those who are left to make decisions even if no surrogate is available or none has been designated.

**Florida Catholic Conference**  
201 W Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-7715  
Telephone: (850) 222-3803  
Fax: (850) 681-9548  
Website: <http://www.flacathconf.org>





### **Additions to the *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death***

Space is provided in the *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* to add personal directions. Caution and care should be taken in making additions, as certain instructions set in writing could be problematic in some unforeseen circumstances. For instance, a particular treatment that may not be desirable long term could be life-saving and health-restoring when used for a short time. The following are examples of appropriate additional instructions:

- Organ donors may wish to add: *"I hereby donate any needed organs (or tissue) as an anatomical gift if I meet medical criteria at the time of my death."*
- A woman of childbearing age should add: *"If I am pregnant, then take every reasonable means to preserve the life of my unborn child."*

### **Circumstances Requiring Special Attention**

Consulting with family, physicians, well-informed clergy, and pastoral healthcare workers is especially helpful for one who must make difficult decisions. One need not make these decisions without the support, advice, and guidance of others.

### **Things to Do:**

- Complete the *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* and have it witnessed.
- Discuss your wishes about health care decisions with family members and surrogates now, while able.
- Choose healthcare providers who are familiar with and respectful of your values.
- After executing an advance directive, and after discussing the issues with your family and surrogate, provide copies to your surrogate (and alternate), family, attorney, physician(s), and the hospital or nursing home (upon each admission).
- Craft a separate document with information important to you. It could include a list of persons to be notified if you are sick or dying, special prayers you would like, a request for or extension of forgiveness, and expression of thanks, your funeral plans and obituary information. Tell your surrogate about this document and keep it with your *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death*.

### **Things to Remember:**

- *The best way to make sure wishes are known and followed is to designate and prepare one's own surrogate in advance of a medical emergency.*
  - *Hospice teams are specially trained to care for persons with terminal illness. Ask your health care provider if hospice is appropriate for you or your loved one.*
  - *If a person completes more than one advance directive, the most recent one is in effect; the others are invalid.*
  - *An advance directive can be updated at any time by a person with capacity, provided the change is properly witnessed. Such changes are best made in writing.*
  - *One should never ask for or demand assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing. This is not only wrong for the person signing the document, but it also does a serious injustice to physicians, family and medical personnel to whom such immoral demands are made.*
  - *The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the dying should be given the attention and care necessary to help them live their last moments in dignity and peace. They will be helped by the prayer of their relatives, who must see to it that the sick receive at the proper time the sacraments that help them to meet the living God (CCC #2299).*
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The following are excerpts from Church teaching documents:

### **HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH DEATH**

Christ's redemption and saving grace embrace the whole person, especially in his or her illness, suffering, and death. The Catholic health care ministry faces the reality of death with the confidence of faith. In the face of death – for many, a time when hope seems lost – the Church witnesses to her belief that God has created each person for eternal life.

– United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
*Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Nov. 2009, Part Five.

### **TO CARE WHEN WE CANNOT CURE**

The task of medicine is to care even when we cannot cure. Physicians and their patients must evaluate the use of the technology at their disposal. Reflection on the innate dignity of human life in all its dimensions and on the purpose of medical care is indispensable for formulating a true moral judgment about the use of technology to maintain life. The use of life-sustaining technology is judged in light of the Christian meaning of life, suffering, and death.

– United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
*Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Nov. 2009, Part Five.

### **CONSIDERING BENEFITS AND BURDENS**

A person has a moral obligation to use ordinary or proportionate means of preserving his or her life. Proportionate means are those that in the judgment of the patient offer a reasonable hope of benefit and do not entail an excessive burden or impose excessive expense on the family or the community.

A person may forgo extraordinary or disproportionate means of preserving life. Disproportionate means are those that in the patient's judgment do not offer a reasonable hope of benefit or entail an excessive burden, or impose excessive expense on the family or the community.

– United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
*Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Nov. 2009, #56 & 57.

### **RELIEVING PAIN**

Patients should be kept as free of pain as possible so that they may die comfortably and with dignity, and in the place where they wish to die. Since a person has the right to prepare for his or her death while fully conscious, he or she should not be deprived of consciousness without a compelling reason. Medicines capable of alleviating or suppressing pain may be given to a dying person, even if this therapy may indirectly shorten the person's life so long as the intent is not to hasten death. Patients experiencing suffering that cannot be alleviated should be helped to appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.

– United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
*Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Nov. 2009, #56 & 57.

### **HUMAN SUFFERING**

It is faith in Christ that enlightens Christians regarding sickness and the condition of the aged person, as in every other event and phase of existence. Jesus, dying on the Cross, gave human suffering a transcendent value and meaning. Faced with suffering and sickness, believers are invited to remain calm because nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of Christ.

Pope Benedict XVI  
*Address to the Pontifical Council on Health Care*, November 17, 2007.



## **ON QUESTIONS OF NUTRITION AND HYDRATION**

In principle, there is an obligation to provide patients with food and water, including medically assisted nutrition and hydration for those who cannot take food orally. This obligation extends to patients in chronic and presumably irreversible conditions (e.g., the "persistent vegetative state") who can reasonably be expected to live indefinitely if given such care. Medically assisted nutrition and hydration become morally optional when they cannot reasonably be expected to prolong life or when they would be "excessively burdensome for the patient or [would] cause significant physical discomfort, for example resulting from complications in the use of the means employed." For instance, as a patient draws close to inevitable death from an underlying progressive and fatal condition, certain measures to provide nutrition and hydration may become excessively burdensome and therefore not obligatory in light of their very limited ability to prolong life or provide comfort.

-- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
*Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, Nov. 2009, #58.*

## **FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF OUR LIVES**

The truth that life is a precious gift from God has profound implications for the question of stewardship over human life. We are not the owners of our lives and, hence, do not have absolute power over life. We have a duty to preserve our life and to use it for the glory of God, but the duty to preserve life is not absolute, for we may reject life-prolonging procedures that are insufficiently beneficial or excessively burdensome. Suicide and euthanasia are never morally acceptable options.

-- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
*Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, Nov. 2009, Part Five.*

## **EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE**

More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching.

-- Pope Benedict XVI  
*Address to the Pontifical Academy for Life Congress, February 25, 2008.*

**Florida Catholic Conference**  
**201 West Park Avenue**  
**Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715**



# CATHOLIC DECLARATION ON LIFE AND DEATH ADVANCE DIRECTIVE (HEALTH SURROGATE DESIGNATION/LIVING WILL) OF

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

## Introduction

I am executing this *Catholic Declaration on Life and Death* while I am of sound mind. It is intended to designate a surrogate and provide guidance in making medical decisions in the event I am incapacitated or unable to express my own wishes.

## Statement of Faith

I believe that I have been created for eternal life in union with God. The truth that my life is a precious gift from God has profound implications for the question of stewardship over my life. I have a duty to preserve my life and to use it for God's glory, but the duty to preserve my life is not absolute, for I may reject life-prolonging procedures that are insufficiently beneficial or excessively burdensome. Suicide and euthanasia are never morally acceptable options.<sup>1</sup> If I should become irreversibly and terminally ill, I request to be fully informed of my condition so that I can prepare myself spiritually for death and witness to my belief in Christ's redemption.

## Designation of Health Care Surrogate

In the event that I become incapacitated, I designate as my surrogate for health care decisions (if no surrogate is to be appointed, please write "none" in place of "name" below):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones (H, W, C): \_\_\_\_\_

If my surrogate is unwilling or unable to perform his or her duties or cannot be contacted, I wish to designate as my alternate surrogate (if no alternate surrogate is to be appointed, please write "none" in place of "name" below):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones (H, W, C): \_\_\_\_\_

This directive will permit my surrogate to make health care decisions, and to provide, withhold, or withdraw consent on my behalf; to apply for public benefits to defray the cost of health care; to receive my personal health care information; and to authorize my admission to or transfer from a health care facility. My surrogate is further appointed as my "Personal Representative."<sup>2</sup> This directive is not being made as a condition of treatment or admission to a health care facility. This document must be signed and witnessed on the other side to be valid.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (USCCB: Washington, DC 2018), Part Five.

<sup>2</sup> As defined by 45 CFR 164.502(g), for purposes of compliance with Federal HIPAA Laws and Regulations (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996).



**Living Will**

The following gives guidance for carrying out my wishes at the end of life. If at any time I am incapacitated and I have a terminal condition or I have an end-stage condition, and if my attending or treating physician and another consulting physician have determined that there is no reasonable medical probability of my recovery from such condition(s), my health care surrogate (designated above, if any) will be authorized to make decisions for me in accordance with my wishes expressed in this Declaration. If my surrogate cannot be contacted (or I have not named a surrogate), then I request and direct that each of the following be considered in making a decision for me.

That:

1. I be provided care and comfort, and that my pain be relieved.
2. No inappropriate, excessively burdensome nor disproportionate means be used to prolong my life. This can include medical or surgical procedures.
3. There should be a presumption in favor of providing nutrition and hydration to me, including medically assisted nutrition and hydration, unless:
  - They cannot reasonably be expected to prolong my life; or
  - The means used to deliver the nutrition and hydration are excessively burdensome and do not offer sufficient benefit or would cause me significant physical discomfort; or
  - I am imminently dying from an irreversible condition.
4. Nothing be done with the intention of causing my death.
5. Spiritual care be provided, including sacraments whenever possible.

**Additional Instructions**


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**Signatures Required**

It is my intention that my surrogate, family and physicians honor this declaration as the expression of my treatment wishes. I understand the full import of this declaration, and I am emotionally and mentally competent to make this declaration.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DECLARANT

Last 4 Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed/Typed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed/Typed Name

The Health Care Surrogate cannot serve as a witness; at least one witness must not be a spouse or blood relative of the person signing.

November 6, 2018