



## ***PRAYER***

Lord Jesus Christ,  
As You stood by the bed  
of good Saint Joseph and  
gently led him home to  
heaven, so shepherd  
every soul about to die to  
a paradise of perfect  
peace. Let the tears we  
shed upon their passing  
stand witness to our love  
for them and the depth of  
our thanksgiving for the  
gift of their lives and the  
grace of a good death.  
For You are Lord, forever  
and ever. *Amen.*



## **Works of Mercy**

### **CORPORAL**

1. Feed the Hungry Mt 25:35
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty Mt 25:35
3. Clothe the Naked Mt 25:36
4. Shelter the Homeless Mt 25:35
5. Visit the Sick Mt 25:36
6. Visit the Imprisoned Mt 25:35
7. Bury the Dead Mt 25:40

### **SPIRITUAL**

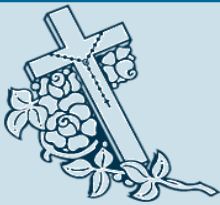
1. Instruct the Uninformed Mt 16:15
2. Counsel the Doubtful Jn 14:27
3. Admonish Sinners Lk 15:7
4. Bear Wrongs Patiently Lk 6:27
5. Forgive Offenses Mt 6:12
6. Comfort the Sorrowful Mt 11:28
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead Jn 17:24

***No one person can do everything,  
but everyone can do something.***



**End of Life**  
**Suicide**  
**Euthanasia**





## CHURCH TEACHING

The Church witnesses to her belief that God has created each person for eternal life. ***Order of Christian Funerals***

### POPE BENEDICT XVI

#### ***Spe Salvi (In Hope We are Saved)***

A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through compassion is a cruel and inhuman society. (II, 38.)

### USCCB

#### ***Ethical & Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services***

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.

### **NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER**

There is an obligation to provide food and water, even if medically assisted, unless they cannot reasonably be expected to prolong life or when they would be excessively burdensome for the patient or would cause significant physical discomfort.



## END OF LIFE

***Death itself is anything but an event without hope. It is the door which opens wide on eternity and, for those who live in Christ, an experience of participation in the mystery of his Death and Resurrection.*** Evangelium Vitae, 97

### **CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH (2276 –2283)**

Those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect and should be helped to lead lives as normal as possible.

**EUTHANASIA** consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable, and must always be forbidden and excluded. Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate. Palliative care should be encouraged.

**SUICIDE** is gravely contrary to the just love of self and for the living God. We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to Him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. We pray for persons who have taken their own lives.

*Anyone who desires **euthanasia** or **suicide** should receive loving care, psychological and spiritual support, and appropriate remedies for pain and other symptoms so that they can live with dignity until the time of natural death.*

## RESOURCES and IDEAS

### **Archdiocese Respect Life Office**

[nolacatholic.org/end-of-life-issues](http://nolacatholic.org/end-of-life-issues)

### **National Catholic Bioethics Center**

[ncbcenter.org](http://ncbcenter.org) 215-877-2660

- Provides education and resources in healthcare and biomedical research
- Free Personal Ethics Consultation

Consider becoming an **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** for those who are hospitalized or homebound

### **Contact a local Nursing Home or**

**Hospice** to visit residents who do not normally have visitors

### **Angels' Place** 504-455-2620

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

Volunteer or donate to help children with life-threatening diseases & their families

### **Run Errands** or start a **Meal Train**

for newly bereaved families

### **Archdiocese Grief Ministries**

[nolacatholic.org/griefministry](http://nolacatholic.org/griefministry)

504-330-5974

### **Red Bird Ministries**

[redbird.love](http://redbird.love)

Grief support ministry for child loss

### **Catholic Counseling Service**

Professional, confidential counseling

504-861-6245. [ccs@arch-no.org](mailto:ccs@arch-no.org)

### **Pray:**

**Rosary** for ourselves & others, asking Mary to pray for us at the hour of our death

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** for those who are close to death

**Offer a Plenary Indulgence** for deceased loved ones.

[catholic.org/prayers/indulgw.php](http://catholic.org/prayers/indulgw.php)

