

Living With Hope ... Confronting Our Fears

A series on death and dying: The Catholic Perspective

Facilitator Notes

This section contains formats for facilitating discussion groups on the topics contained within *Living with Hope...Confronting Our Fears*. The goal is to engage parishioners in dialogue, familiarizing them with Church teachings regarding end-of-life issues.

Suggested outlines for sessions are included, as well as camera-ready handouts, prayers, a bibliography, some resources, and an extended list of other resources.

As facilitator, you should start by becoming familiar with the documents. View the videos. Reflect on what insights you may have gained. What did you find helpful? Are there other resources in your parish which may be helpful?

Once you are familiar with the materials, it is important that you take time to clarify basic expectations, resources, and constraints. Begin with preliminary decisions that may have already been made regarding:

- Your role as facilitator
- What parish groups, committees will be helping (Social Action, Respect Life, Adult Faith Formation)?
- Direction and time limits (format of dissemination)
- How will this (these) events (documents) be publicized?
- Small group facilitators

Materials for Sessions

- Copies of documents for each participant
- Newsprint
- Name tags
- Copy of video
- VCR & TV
- Additional copies of resources
- Tables & chairs set for comfortable small group discussions



Catholic Conference of Ohio, 9 East Long Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Educational Ideas

I. Presenters and Facilitators

Contact the Pro Life/ Respect Life Offices for suggestions.

II. Dialogue Suggestions and Questions

Use each of the Six Information Sheets as discussion starters.

Stewardship of Life

How do I foster care and concern for my own life?
And in the lives of others?
How do I deal with suffering?

Pain and Suffering, Care and Compassion

What is the loving response to suffering of a loved one?
What role does the faith community have in helping people who are suffering and are in pain?

Making Difficult Medical Decisions

What would I consider too burdensome for myself?
For a member of my family?
How can our parish better teach the Church's position regarding medical options which are morally acceptable as we face the dying process?

Informed Decision Making

What conversations have I had with my loved ones about this issue?
What role does the faith community have in helping people who are in the position of having to make these decisions?



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II. Dialogue Suggestions and Questions (cont.)

Advance Directives: The Need for Communication

How can I help my family to respect my treatment wishes?
What questions do I have regarding Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and DNR's?

Questions and Answers regarding Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Do you think assisted suicide will ever be legally permitted in Ohio?
What ought our Church be doing to better educate people on these questions?

Consider the following General Reflections

I am a part of a great family of humanity; how I choose to live and die influences the life and destiny of my brothers and sisters.

What does this say to you about "death with dignity"?
How has your thinking on this issue changed?

"The bruised reed he will not crush; the smoldering wick he will not quench."

Matthew 12:20

What does this say to you about being Stewards of Life?
How has your thinking on this issue changed?

"Human suffering is a share in Christ's Passion and a union with the redeeming sacrifice which Christ offered for us. Death is the door that ushers us into eternity." *Death and Life, Catholic Bishops of Ohio*

How can one find strength from God through suffering?
What are some ways we can provide comfort to a dying person?



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III. Audiovisuals

1. Faith unto Life, Hope unto Death, Love unto Eternal Life

12 minutes. Provides a nice theological and meditative background. Michigan Catholic Conference. 1997.

Michigan Catholic Conference
505 N. Capitol, Lansing, MI 48933
517-372-3940 Fax: 517-372-3940
E-mail: bstarrak@micatholicconference.org

2. Final Blessing

52 minutes. Provides compelling stories of persons dealing with terminal illness. There are several places to stop the film should time be limited. Catholic Communication Campaign. 1997.

United States Catholic Conference
Publishing Services, Video 5-168
3211 Fourth St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20017
1-800-235-8722 www.nccbusecc.org

3. Asking About Advance Directives: Scenarios for Healthcare Providers

21 minutes. Provides an excellent general background on Advance Directives. Useful for both healthcare professionals and interested persons. It will be helpful to use information about Ohio laws when using this video. Catholic Health Association of the United States. 1991.

Catholic Health Association
4455 Woodson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63134
314-427-2500 Fax: 314-427-0029
www.chausa.org

4. Euthanasia: False Light

15 minutes. Provides stories of three persons given only months to live. Emphasizes the dangers of euthanasia. International Anti-Euthanasia Task Force. 1995.



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