

Living With Hope ... Confronting Our Fears

A series on death and dying: The Catholic Perspective

PROPOSED THREE SESSION OUTLINE



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

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Session One

Stewardship of Life

Questions & Answers Regarding Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia

Time Frame: 1 1/2 hours

Gather: hospitality, registration

Welcome/Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Our purpose is to explore church teachings, to dialogue with each other, to reflect on our understanding, and to prepare ourselves for future choices so that we may be good stewards of life.

Introduce texts using tonight: “Stewardship of Life”, and “Questions & Answers Regarding Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia”

Large Group (30 minutes)

Video: *Faith unto Life, Hope unto Death, Love unto Eternal Life*

Discussion: What did you see and hear that struck you?

Small Group (20 minutes)

Participants read Stewardship of Life

Sharing

Each take 2 minutes to introduce self (if necessary), and share why this issue is important to you.

Questions: How do I foster care and concern for my own life?

And in lives of others?

How do I deal with suffering?

Small Group (20 minutes)

Participants read Questions & Answers Regarding Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia

Sharing

Questions: How can we make clear that suicide is always wrong without judging someone who has chosen this unfortunate action?

How can we help the family experiencing such a death?



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Session One (continued)

Conclusion/Closing Prayer/Reflection (10 minutes)

Before you leave this evening, take five minutes to reflect:

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

Matthew 12:20

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



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Session Two

Pain and Suffering, Care and Compassion
Advance Directives: The Need for Communication

Time Frame: 1 1/2 hours

Gather: hospitality, registration

Welcome/Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Our purpose is to explore church teachings, to dialogue with each other, to reflect on our understanding, and to prepare ourselves that we may be able to make informed decisions about medical treatment.

Introduce texts using tonight: “Pain and Suffering, Care & Compassion”; and “Advance Directives: The Need for Communication”

Small Group (20 minutes)

Participants read Pain and Suffering, Care and Compassion

Each take 2 minutes to introduce self (if necessary), and share why this issue is important to you.

Questions: 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?

Large Group (30 minutes)

Video: *Asking About Advance Directives: Scenarios for Healthcare Providers*
Segment I

Discussion: What did you see and hear that struck you?

Small Group (20 minutes)

Participants read Advance Directives: The Need for Communication

Sharing

Questions: How can I help my family to respect my wishes with regard to treatment?

What can my parish do to help others understand the legalese of Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and DNRs?



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Session Two (continued)

Conclusion/Closing Prayer/Reflection (10 minutes)

Before you leave this evening, take five minutes to reflect:

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.

Questions: What does this say to you about my idea of “death with dignity?”
How has your thinking on this issue changed?



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Session Three Making Difficult Medical Decisions Informed Decision Making

Time Frame: 1 1/2 hours

Gather: hospitality, registration

Welcome/Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Our purpose is to explore church teachings, to dialogue with each other, to reflect on our understanding, and to enable us to understand our legal and moral rights with regard to end of life issues.

Introduce texts using tonight: “Making Difficult Medical Decisions”; and “Informed Decision Making”.

Small Group (20 minutes)

Participants read Making Difficult Medical Decisions

Sharing

Each take 2 minutes to introduce self (if necessary), and share why this issue is important to you.

Questions: 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?

Small Group (20 minutes)

Participants read Informed Decision Making

Sharing

Questions: 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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Session Three (continued)

Large Group - Evaluation of Program (30 minutes)

Before you leave this evening, take five minutes to reflect on our entire series: *Living with Hope...Confronting our Fears*

Questions: How do these Church teachings seem contrary to current social trends?
How can the Church support you in making life decisions?
How has your thinking on these issues changed?

Conclusion/Closing Prayer/Reflection (10 minutes)



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