

Living With Hope ... Confronting Our Fears

A series on death and dying: The Catholic Perspective

Gathering Prayer

Prayer For Hope

Creator and Gracious God,
We praise You for the gift of creation,
especially the gift of human life.
You call us to be Your stewards...
Your servants...Your children. We are
caretakers--not owners--of this life and
world. Help us to care for, foster and
nourish life, so that we might all live
more abundantly in Your Love.

Jesus, Son of God,
Help us to be people of compassion--
Your compassion. Strengthen us so
that we may comfort those in pain,
and bring Your faith... and Your hope...
and Your charity to those who suffer.
Help us to suffer with, and accompany
one another in and through pain and
suffering.

Spirit of Life,
You are with us always. As we seek to
confront our fears about death and
dying, help us to live in hope,
secure in Your loving guidance.
Grant us Your Peace now and at the
moment of our death. May we wait
upon Your call in faithful service
and humble obedience.



Reflective Reading

“Many argue that assisted suicide offers death with dignity. That a person who is terminally ill and is able to make a decision, has the right to choose how and when to die.

But for those who share the Catholic faith, we believe life is a mystery, a gift from God, a blessing over which we do not have complete control.

Which leads us to believe there is a difference between compassionately managing pain and artificially extending life.

And a fundamental difference between allowing death and assisting it.

Because deep in our soul, we believe assisted suicide denies a dying person the last remaining possession -- time.

The time for allowing and seeking forgiveness. For offering thanks. For preparing for eternal life. For demonstrating love. And for saying good-bye, assured of greater things to come.

Now is the time to better understand assisted suicide and the Catholic Church's perspective on this issue.

Please take the time.”

(Michigan Catholic Conference, *Faith unto Life, Hope unto Death, Love unto Eternal Life*)