

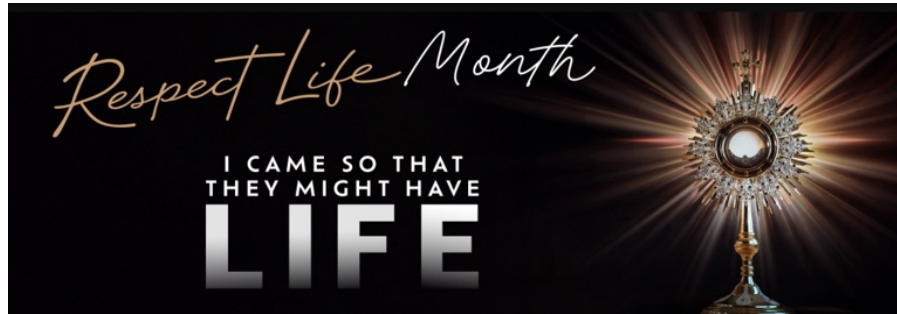
2024

**CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL**
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

*Revitalizing our Faith –
Renewed by the Eucharist*



Happy Autumn!



“Let us remember that life is a gift from God! It is always sacred and inviolable, and we cannot silence the voice of conscience.”

-- Pope Francis

October is Respect Life month. As faithful Catholics we are aware that respecting life is a constant pursuit. May we always consider more deeply that every human life is valuable and reflect on how we can build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.

With your support, we can achieve this challenge of keeping the sanctity of life at the forefront of our community and society. Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal provides Respect Life initiatives through prayer services, education, witness and action.

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR RESPECT LIFE WEBSITE](#)

~ Pro-Life and Catholic ~
Insights for Catholic Youth



Presented by
Jozef Zalot, PhD, MEd
Director of Education and ethicist with
National Catholic Bioethics Center

Saturday, October 12, 2024
1:00pm - 3:30pm
St. Christopher, Baldwin
11 Gale Avenue (off Merrick Rd.)



→ Inviting Catholic Teens and Young Adults
Dr. Zalot will help us navigate ethical decision-making
on current pro-life issues.



Light refreshments
FREE ADMISSION
Bring your friends!



Does Your Estate Plan Include A Pro-Life Medical Directive? By Mark Henry

When you get your estate plan done, it is an opportune time to make sure that decisions involving serious medical treatment issues will be made consistent with your Catholic values.

This is important as it enables you to clarify to your family and friends what your wishes are when it comes to critical end of life medical decisions.

Unfortunately, many Catholics overlook getting an **Advance Medical Declaration** that is consistent with Catholic teachings on end of life matters. In fact, many people sign Living Will forms which may lead to health care treatment that is contrary to Catholic pro-life teachings.

Without written medical treatment instructions, a person's surviving family is left guessing what a relative's wishes are concerning end of life medical decisions. Should they insist that the hospital continue to provide life-sustaining care to their aged and sick parent, or should they yield to pressure to consent to their loved one being euthanized by discontinuance of ordinary life-sustaining care?

Often, Catholics who seek guidance on end of life matters are told that it is permissible to stop providing normal life-sustaining care to a loved

one who has become hospitalized. This is unfortunate since it "paves the way" for a faithful Catholic's family to give their consent to something that is wholly inconsistent with Catholic moral teachings; the euthanizing of their loved one.

Euthanasia is not a permissible choice for Catholics. However, this does not mean that Catholics need to fight death heroically by employing every available medical procedure to oppose death. ***In the Declaration on Euthanasia, the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith states "When death is clearly imminent and inevitable, one can in conscience refuse forms of treatment that would only secure a precarious and burdensome prolongation of life, so long as the normal care to the sick person in similar cases is not interrupted.*** See, Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, Declaration on Euthanasia (1980).

It is important to understand the real meaning of the term "normal care" when you are considering your end of life medical planning. Many Catholic medical ethicists believe that unless a patient is near death and can no longer assimilate food and fluids, providing the patient with nutrition and hydration should be considered "normal care".

Why do Catholics need to be knowledgeable about such a detailed medical issue when they are doing their estate planning? It is because many Catholics end up including a Living Will document in their estate plans. The Living Will is a commonly used, yet misunderstood estate planning document, which usually gives the hospital permission to cease providing normal ordinary life-sustaining medical care to a patient.

There are "code" words that Catholics should be on the look out for when reviewing a Living Will or other Medical Treatment document before deciding whether to sign the document. These code words include terms like *comfort care, quality of life, heroic measures, and artificial means*. You may want to exercise caution before signing a Living Will form that contains these problematic terms. This is because such a document may put you at risk of not receiving life-sustaining care which, according to Catholic teachings, may be considered normal care and morally obligatory.

Instead, when getting your estate plan done you may want to consider getting a Pro-Life Health Care Declaration that directs your health care providers to provide you end-of-life health care which respects your pro-life Catholic values.

Seek the advice of an independent advisor, legal, medical or financial, before implementing any planning strategies or ideas. If you would like more information, ideas, or help with this process, please call Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 ext. 257 or email her at bkilarjian@drvc.org or get ideas on what type of legacy you can leave at www.drvc.org/planned-giving



A Sacred Month for Reflection, Remembrance, and Renewal

For Catholics, October is traditionally dedicated to the Rosary, with the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. In a world filled with unrest, the Rosary provides us with a way to bring peace to our hearts and communities. Saint John Paul II called it his "favorite prayer," emphasizing that through it, we can profoundly encounter Christ.

October is also a time to honor several saints who inspire us to live courageously in our walk of faith. [CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT THESE SAINTS](#)

Your gift makes a difference in the lives of many.
It's not too late to make a gift to the 2024 Catholic
Ministries Appeal!

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