

Embracing Our Dying



*You are not
alone*

A resource for Catholics facing
“end-of-life” decisions:

*If those who are dying are
embraced by their family and
their community, they will not
seek death, but will live their
last days well, and then accept
death when it comes.*



California Catholic Conference

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A project of the Bishops of the
California Catholic Conference

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www.EmbracingOurDying.com

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For [you] will be like a tree planted by the water that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear...”
—Jeremiah 17:8

As recently as 50 years ago, people expected their doctors to expend every effort to preserve life. Since then, with the advent of ventilators, dialysis, tube feeding, transplants, exotic antibiotics, and intensive care units, efforts by healthcare professionals may be prolonging the dying process rather than preserving life. Most people can tell a sad story about a friend or a loved one whose death was fear-filled, painful, and lonely.

Our website, which has a uniquely Catholic perspective, offers a better way for individuals, families, and friends to approach end-of-life issues.

We hope that this website will serve you and yours well as you deal with end-of-life issues.

Our site provides useful information for individuals, families and/or parish communities. Included on the site are:

- An overview of Catholic moral theology on death and dying;
- A report on the current medical and hospital practices;
- A summary of the state of the law regarding end-of-life issues;
- Various articles of interest;
- Pertinent Church documents;
- Information on parish nurses, parish health ministry, hospice care and other parish-based services;
- And answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ).



“All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come...” —Job 14:14

Also included on the website:

- Many pages in Spanish,
- Bulletin inserts in various sizes available for downloading—in color and black and white.
- Link to 15-minute video, *Embracing Our Dying*, on YouTube,
- Lists of hospices in all of California’s counties,
- Help in finding a California Catholic parish.

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