

## THE CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

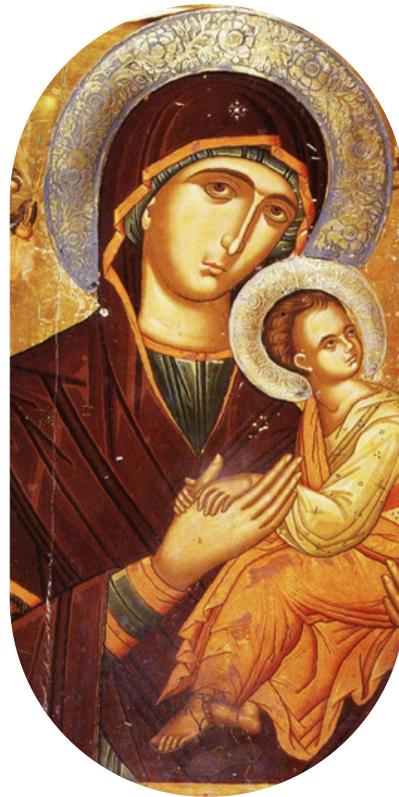
- Life is a sacred gift from God
- Those who suffer can share in Christ's redemptive love (Col 1:24)
- True compassion means always to care, never to kill
- We are stewards, not owners, of life

## WHY MAID IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

- Undermines the dignity of life
- Distorts the meaning of suffering
- Creates pressure on the vulnerable
- Diverts resources from real care

## CALL TO ACTION

The Bishops of Manitoba call for accessible palliative and hospice care for all, support for families and caregivers, and education on Catholic teaching about end-of-life issues.



## WHAT CAN I DO?

We encourage all Christians to reflect on the full text of the letter.



BOOKLET

Catholic Bishops of Manitoba

# FINDING SOLACE IN FAITH

*A Pastoral Letter  
on End-of-Life Issues*

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me.

*Psalm 23:4*





## EMBRACING END-OF-LIFE WITH FAITH

As Catholics, we uphold the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. While preserving life is a moral duty, this duty is not absolute; it is balanced by compassion, reason, and faith in Christ's Resurrection.

## PREPARING FOR THE END OF LIFE INCLUDES

- Advance healthcare directives
- Access to palliative and hospice care
- Spiritual preparation and the Sacraments

## ADVANCE HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVES

- Legal documents that outline your wishes if you cannot speak for yourself
- Appoint a trusted health care agent
- Ensure treatments align with Catholic teaching
- Seek advice from your pastor, Catholic ethicists, and physicians

## PALLIATIVE CARE

- Focuses on quality of life in serious illness
- Manages pain and addresses physical, emotional, and spiritual needs
- Respects dignity, never hastens or delays death
- Available through Manitoba's Regional Health Authorities



## HOSPICE CARE

- Comfort for those near life's end (weeks or less)
- Offers pain relief, emotional and spiritual support
- Provides Sacraments and bereavement care

## THE CHALLENGE OF MAID

- Legal in Canada since 2016 (expanded in 2021)
- Involves intentionally ending life
- The Catholic Church teaches MAiD contradicts God's law: "You shall not kill."
- Risks devaluing the sick, elderly, and vulnerable