Prayers

Prayer of the Elderly  (Blessed Pope John Paul II, 1999)
Grant, O Lord of life, that we may savor every season of our lives as a gift filled with promise for the future. Grant that we may lovingly accept your will, and place ourselves each day in your merciful hands. And when the moment of our definitive “passage” comes, grant that we may face it with serenity, without regret for what we shall leave behind. For in meeting you, after having sought you for so long, we shall find once more every authentic good which we have known here on earth, in the company of all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and hope. Mary, Mother of pilgrim humanity, pray for us “now and at the hour of our death.” Keep us ever close to Jesus, your beloved Son and our brother, the Lord of life and glory. Amen!

Comfort and Hope Unto Eternal Life
Blessed are You, Lord, God of Life. We praise You today for the gift of life. Teach us to live according to Your will. Prepare us for the end of our days by opening our eyes to the reality of death and calming our hearts of their fears and anxieties. Help us to be compassionate to those we know who are sick and dying. Show us how to give them loving care. Protect the dying and preserve the dignity and rights of those who will soon die. Welcome these children into your life with you. Bestow on all of us the grace to give comfort and hope unto eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer For All About To Die
Lord Jesus Christ, as you stood by the bed of good Saint Joseph and gently led him home to heaven, so shepherd every soul about to die to a paradise of perfect peace. Let the tears we shed upon their passing stand witness to our love for them and the depth of our thanksgiving for the gift of their lives and the grace of a good death. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph
St. Joseph, in the popular piety of the Church, has been considered the patron saint of those dying since he himself had the privilege of dying in the arms of Mary and Jesus. “Since we all must die, we should cherish a special devotion to St. Joseph, that he may obtain for us a happy death.” (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)
O Blessed Joseph, you gave your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this solace for that hour – to die with their holy arms around me. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying, into your sacred arms. Amen.

Prayer For Renewed Strength
O Lord, my God, please give me the grace to maintain my hope in you through all of life’s changes and to taste and see your goodness. I praise you for the gifts you have showered on me for so many years. Help me find joy in a renewed strength of spirit. Please bless me with good health, and inspire me to be a good example to others. For you are Lord, forever and ever. Amen.

Additional prayer resources can be found at:
http://old.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/liturservices.shtml
and
http://old.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/rlp.shtml
Prayers

Prayer to Prevent Assisted Suicide

O God, source of all life and hope, 
grant us the grace to see You in others, 
especially in the poor and vulnerable, the frail and old. 
Look kindly on your sons and daughters 
who have grown weak through illness and age: 
Fill them with the strength of Your Holy Spirit. 
Keep them firm in faith and serene in hope, 
that they might give us all an example of patience and 
joyfully witness to the power of Your love. 
We pray for our country and for our Commonwealth 
of Massachusetts; that we might continue to protect and 
defend the dignity and worth of every human life, 
created in Your image and likeness. 
Assist us as we oppose thoé who, out of misguided mercy, 
advance the cause of doctor-assisted suicide. 
Help us to recognize that to die with dignity is to die in Your 
loving embrace, trusting in Your compassionate care for us, 
and allowing Your will to be done in us. 
Mary, Mother of God, pray for us and help us grow in 
faith and trust, so that your words might become ours: 
“Let it be done to me according to God’s will.” 
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ Rev. Jonathan M. Gaspar, Archdiocese of Boston, Director of Divine Worship

Comfort and Hope Unto Eternal Life

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Teach us to live according to Your will. 
Prepare us for the end of our days and weeks by opening our eyes to the reality of death and 
calming our hearts of their fears and anxieties. 
Help us to be compassionate to those we know 
who are sick and dying. 
Show us how to give them loving care. 
Protect the dying and preserve the dignity and 
rights of those who will soon die. 
Welcome these children into Your life with You. 
Bestow on all of us the grace to give Comfort 
and Hope unto Eternal Life. 
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ In Support of Life