

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

The attacks on human life continue to escalate, with five states (Oregon, Washington, California, Vermont, and Colorado) and the District of Columbia (pending Congressional action) having legalized physician-assisted suicide through legislation or referendum, and one state (Montana) through a court order. Numerous states continue to be targeted by advocacy groups like Compassion and Choices. While the US Supreme Court has ruled that there is no constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide, state laws and constitutions can allow it. Historically, the American Medical Association and its state affiliates have been effective in opposing these initiatives, but there is now a movement by such associations to remain neutral. This weakens efforts to protect human life from the inherent abuses contained in the state laws. These abuses have escalated in European countries, where persons who are not terminally ill are assisted to die, and in both Canada and Europe there is evidence of direct euthanasia by physicians.

In the United States, protocols allow for numerous violations of informed consent. In addition, examples of euthanasia by omission abound, with or without the explicit consent of patients, especially cognitively impaired patients. Increasingly, hospices withdraw therapeutic medications or assisted nutrition and hydration when these remain proportionately beneficial, and there is evidence that oral nutrition and hydration may be withdrawn with the use of sedation that makes swallowing impossible. In fact, there is a growing acceptance of voluntary stopping of eating and drinking (VSED), based on patients’ perceived right to unlimited autonomy. Health care providers are thus facing threats to their religious liberty when they refuse to participate in such legally allowed procedures (Vermont and Canada are examples).

As one examines the advancement of such polices in Europe, where Christian agencies have been forced to participate in physician-assisted suicide, the limited protections for objecting providers in the United States are troublesome. Numerous unanswered questions exist for Catholic health care. It is likely that the challenges to the integrity of Catholic health care posed by physician-assisted suicide, passive euthanasia, and VSED will be similar to the challenges posed by reproductive issues. The Bishops of Canada already are being faced with pastoral issues, such as access to the sacraments by those seeking physician-assisted suicide, and their burial. These are issues about which the Church and Catholic health care must be proactive.

Question 1: What is the difference between physician-assisted suicide and active or passive euthanasia?

Reply: Physician-assisted suicide provides for the lethal self-administration of drugs ordered by a physician. Active euthanasia involves the direct administration by another (e.g., a physician) of drugs to cause death. Passive euthanasia is the withdrawing or withholding of proportionately beneficial care or treatment to effect death. In the United States, several states have legalized physician-assisted suicide, but no state has legalized active euthanasia. No state has prohibited passive euthanasia, even without explicit patient consent.

Question 2: Shouldn’t an advanced directive allowing passive euthanasia, or an explicit request for physician-assisted suicide, be honored under the principle of patient autonomy?

Reply: Patient autonomy is not unlimited. Health care providers have an obligation to provide beneficent care and to do no harm. There is a long-standing legal tradition of criminalizing acts that facilitate suicide. Yet laws allowing physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia treat some persons as being not worthy of these protections, such as the terminally ill and, increasingly, those who have decided that life is not worth living and those who are no longer able to make decisions for themselves. Despite some legal protections, there is evidence that health care providers may be coerced to violate their conscience if a patient or family so demands.

Question 3: What is an objecting health care provider to do when a patient requests physician-assisted suicide?

Reply: The objecting provider, be it an individual or agency, should insist on invoking their conscience rights, by any legal means, such as state or federal Religious Freedom Restoration Acts. Furthermore, general agency policies should exist that allow, in all circumstance in which a procedure will not be provided, a transfer of care and transfer of the medical record of a patient to any provider selected by the patient and his family.

Question 4: Should the person requesting physician-assisted suicide be provided access to the last rites of the Church?

Reply: Persons are to be properly disposed to receive the sacraments without delay. In terms of a funeral Mass, the Church is a generous Mother. However, if there is evidence of a notorious rejection of Church teaching (which physician-assisted suicide does entail if a person is fully culpable) or the likelihood of scandal, a memorial Mass at a later date may be a pastoral alternative. Proper burial of the deceased always is required.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Liturgical Ministers for October 26th/27th, 2019

Mass	Lector	Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00pm	D. LEGATO	T. WEBB, A. WITKOWSKI	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI, J. LEGATO
8:30am	M. LATINI	J. HENDRICK, S. RIORDAN	T. LAMOREAUX, A. & E. TRUJILLO
11:30am	H. MARINARO	T. MARION, J. SNELLINGER	S. BHIKARRY, K. EPPS, M. FEDRIZZI



St. Mary's Little Lambs will be taking orders for prayer pillow-cases in the Narthex after all Masses. There are many saints to choose from and it is a great way to help your child or loved one connect with a real person who has strived to put Jesus first in their lives. Cost \$14.95.



Next Sunday is the All You Can Eat Breakfast.

St. Mary's will continue the tradition of providing those in need within our community with food baskets for Christmas. It has expanded to include additional foods considering children are off from school and normally that is where they get a daily meal. You will find bins in the narthex where you can place non perishable items. Children in the religious Ed program are encouraged to bring items to their classrooms.

Thank you in advance.

Boy Scout Troop 173 is having a clothing drive Saturday, November 2nd from 9am until 1pm. You can drop off Clothing/Shoes, Household linens, Accessories, Bookbags, purses, etc., and soft toys. Kindly sort with like items.

Save The Date! The 3rd Annual concert for the warming station will be held at the First Presbyterian Church located at 60 Sussex Street, on Friday, November 8th at 7pm. It will be hosted by the Four Season Chorale. Free will offering. Contact Kathy Brink for more information 570-430-1755.

The Mt Carmel Society will be having a Sausage and Pepper Take-Out Sat., Nov. 2nd from 4-7pm. Cost \$8. They will be adding Zeppoli's for dessert for Take-Out. The Entertainment at the Hall will be Elisa's Piano School. Students will be performing during the Dinner. 21 First Street Port Jervis, NY



We are family, united in the mission of Jesus Christ. Just as you have expenses in your own family's home, our parish also has similar expenses to keep up with, such as electricity, heat and gas. By participating in A Coffee a Day for Our Parish, you will help us continue providing the services and ministries that make this community vibrant. What to you may be a small cost – like a cup of coffee a day or weekly takeout meal – can make a big difference.

Current Off.	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8	\$9	\$10
\$10	\$12	\$14	\$16	\$18	\$20
\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$50
\$50	\$60	\$70	\$80	\$90	\$100
\$100	\$120	\$140	\$160	\$180	\$200

Announced Masses

- Monday, October 21**
9:00am Angela Portella, by Ed and Helen Eckes
- Tuesday, October 22 (John Paul II, Pope)**
9:00am Angela Portella, by Irene and Tom Sexton
Intentions of Maria Suarez, by Toni Sierra
- Wednesday, October 23 (John of Capistrano, priest)**
9:00am Theresa Kavanagh, by Dan Kavanagh
- Thursday, October 24 (Anthony Mary Claret, bishop)**
9:00am Susan Hinkley, by James Hinkley and family
- Saturday, October 26**
4:00pm Dickson Morrison, by Patrick Leap
- Sunday, October 27**
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am Nick Marinaro, by Patty Ibrami
1:00pm Betty & William Brislin, by Paul & Rosemary Brislin



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Susan Hinkley, by Dick and Barbara Drew.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Andrea Fedoruk, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Joe Formisano, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Antonino Mazzara, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Cinerar, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Mari-on, III, Carmella Balsamello, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, and Eric Hildebrandt.

The collection for October 12/13 was \$4,034.
Thank you for your continued generosity.