

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

RESOURCES FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE OF THE DYING

As part of our response to the legalization of assisted suicide in Washington State, the Archdiocese of Seattle is providing parishes with the following list of resources for compassionate care of the dying and those who grieve their passing into new life. The resources are listed in alphabetical order.

CatholicCaregivers.com is a program of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver. All the materials and resources offered are free. These include parish bulletin briefs, posters, and Prayers of the Intercession. Friends of St. John the Caregiver (www.fsjc.org) also provides training and educational material to dioceses and parishes.

Consoling Grace (www.consolinggrace.com) facilitates improved life-affirming care, support, information and resources for ill and grieving persons and their families - and for the churches and organizations that serve them.

Physicians for Compassionate Care Washington (www.pccef.org/washington) is an association of physicians and other health professionals dedicated to preserving the traditional relation of the physician and patient as one in which the physician's primary task is to heal when possible, comfort always, and never intentionally harm.

Supportive Care Coalition (www.supportivecarecoalition.org) assists Catholic health care organizations and their health care professionals to address the physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs of those suffering from life-threatening and/or chronic illness as well as those approaching the end of life. The coalition also advocates for cultural and social policy changes so that all patients can experience living well until death.

True Compassion Advocates (www.truecompassionadvocates.org), opposes assisted suicide, advances true compassion, promotes authentic dignity, advocates for life-affirming choices, provides meaningful support to those at risk for assisted suicide, and fosters communities of compassionate care.

Washington State Catholic Conference (www.thewsc.org) represents the Catholic Bishops of the State of Washington on issues of public policy. The WSCC website has an extensive collection of resources about Catholic teaching on the end of life and physician-assisted suicide. WSCC also offers a booklet, "A Guide to Making Good Decisions for the End of Life: Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care."