

National Healthcare Decision Day

“It Always Seems Too Early, Until It’s Too Late.”

April 16, 2017

What is it?

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) is an annual initiative throughout the U.S.A. to provide clear, concise, and consistent information on healthcare decision-making to all through the widespread availability and dissemination of simple, free, and uniform tools and forms to guide the process.

The purpose of NHDD is to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. It also helps to de-mystify healthcare decision-making and helps each of us to truly focus on the importance of making our own advance care planning decisions.

Why is it important to Catholics?

“We are the Body of Christ” (1. Cor. 12:27). Every human being is created by God as unique, unrepeatable and therefore sacred. This means that our caring for the great gift of life is not meant to be only for the individual’s life but also for the lives of those around us.

What, as Catholics, can you do?

First - realize that, among other things, NHDD helps people understand that advance healthcare decision-making includes much more than living wills.

Second – familiarize yourself with the document “The Final Journey” that was crafted by the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops to give you additional information about the Church’s teaching on making good and virtuous decisions at the end of life, the role of hospice and palliative care and much more.

Third – Review the information on the NHDD web-site: (<http://www.nhdd.org>) and begin the conversation to make the right decisions for both you and your loved ones.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40)

Suggested idea for the Homily on Sunday, April 16, 2017

The Resurrection of Jesus on Easter is the foundation of our faith; it is a time of joy, a time of peace, a time to know that God is truly in charge. It is a time to remember that in order to experience the Resurrection - we must travel through Good Friday. In our Final Journey, we can help those with a terminal disease or one who suffers pain and discomfort; we can help by educating them on advance care planning. By providing clear, concise, and consistent information on healthcare decision making, the Final Journey can be such a blessing.