

PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor, Mary Ellen Modico
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Parish Custodians, Joseph Napolitano & Luis Uruchima

Religious Ed. Secretaries, Ivana Gomez & Jim Arena
Religious Ed. Homeschool Assistant, Jane Gentile
Religious Ed. Registrar, Martina Norris

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism/Becoming a Catholic

Adults (RCIA): call the rectory for information
Infants: Parent Instructions, 2nd Saturday, 11:00am
Celebrations: 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sun., 1:30; 4th Sat, Noon

Reconciliation (Confession)

Sat. 4-5:30PM; Sun. 15 minutes before Mass;
Thurs. 9:30AM; Other times: upon request.

Marriage

The Sacrament of Matrimony requires specific preparation.
Contact a priest at **least 6 months** before the planned ceremony. Archdiocesan marriage instruction is mandatory.

Anointing of the Sick/Holy Communion for the Homebound

Contact a priest for ministry to the sick and aged at home or at a local healthcare facility. Upon request, Holy Communion will be brought to the seriously ill or homebound.

Confirmation

Baptized adults who have never received First Communion and/or Confirmation should contact a priest to complete their Christian Initiation through the R.C.I.A. process.

Holy Orders/Religious Vocations

The clergy are happy to discuss the prospect of a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life.

POPULAR DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday, Chapel, 12:00-3PM
First Friday, Chapel, 12:00-6:00PM
First Saturday, Chapel, 9:30-10:30AM
Divine Mercy Chaplet, Monday-Friday, 3PM

Morning Prayer, Monday-Saturday 8:45AM

Novenas, following 9:00AM Mass

Monday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Parish Patroness

Thursday, Miraculous Medal

Recitation of the Rosary, Daily, following 9:00AM Mass, Chapel

Nana Seton's Corner

Our playgroup for children ages 1 month to 5 years is this **Thursday, Nov. 18th** from 10:30am-12:00pm in Annex B. Currently, we are only having the group on Thursdays. For more information visit our website, www.seton-parish.org.

Synod 2021-2023

As you have heard, the Holy Father has initiated preparation for a General Synod of Bishops to be held in 2023. Each diocese is expected to offer feedback. On October 17th, Cardinal Dolan opened the archdiocesan phase. A synod committee is hard at work in developing ways to support and facilitate prayer, listening, and discussion among the Catholic faithful. Visit the website, <https://archny.org/synod/> for information. The committee hopes to be able to collect feedback and use this website as a place for input from anyone who would like to share ideas and thoughts. If you did not yet hear Cardinal Dolan's homily from that liturgy, you can find it on the website.

Board Games

Next weekend, we will be collecting new and gently used board games for our Youth Group. Please leave games in the box in the main vestibule of the church. Questions, contact Fr. Smith at frsmith@seton-parish.org.

ADVENT and BAKE SALE

Next weekend, SETON Boy Scout Troop 238 will be selling Advent Candles, Advent Calendars, and baked goods after all the Masses. Thank you for supporting our Scouts.

Parish Council

The Parish Council will meet tomorrow, Monday, Nov. 15th at 7:30pm in Annex Room A. If you can't be present, please contact the rectory. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

All Souls Day Envelopes

As November is the month of the commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, All Souls Day envelopes are placed by the Heart of Jesus in the tabernacle throughout the month of November. If you have not taken the opportunity to write the names of your deceased family members on one of the envelopes available at the church doors, please do so as soon as you can and place the envelope in any collection box or drop it at the Parish Office.

SETON SUNDAY MOVIES

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28th AT 4PM

Join us on Sunday, Number 28th at 4pm in Our Lady Memorial Chapel for the 2018 American Christian biographical drama based on the story behind the group *MercyMe's* song of the same name, the best-selling Christian single of all time. The film stars J. Michael Finley as Bart Millard, the lead singer who wrote the song about his relationship with his abusive father (Dennis Quaide). This story, like the song, brought hope to so many as a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness. PG. 110 min. Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIkOAgxkAc8>

Midnight Run Meeting

We will have an organization meeting this **Tuesday, Nov. 16th, at 7:00PM** in the Parish Center's St. Joseph's Hall to prepare for the Dec. 17th Run. Anyone interested in helping or learning more about the Run is welcome. Those who can't go on the Run can help in other ways. Thank you for all that you do for the homeless. Questions: **Eileen Kulp 914-391-5418**, or email: setonmidnightrun@gmail.com

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Fr. Robert E. Panek, John Vincent Caffrey

MASS INTENTIONS

	5:30	The People of Seton Parish
Sun	Nov 14	Thirty-third Ordinary Sunday
	7:00	Anthony & Rosa Randazzo
	8:00	Dec'd Mbrs Higgins & Mahoney Families
	9:30	Charlie Ayala
	11:00	Joe Pikula
	12:30	Bill Johnson
Mon	Nov 15	Weekday/St. Albert the Great, Bishop & Church Doctor
	7:00	Edward Chomas
	9:00	Walter Sekinski
Tue	Nov 16	Weekday/St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin
	7:00	Zymunt Kulaga
	9:00	Rory Dahil
	7:00	Dec'd Mbrs Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus/Columbiettes & Ministers of Hospitality
Wed	Nov 17	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
	7:00	Dec'd Mbrs Higgins Family
	9:00	Raymond Kennison
Thu	Nov 18	Weekday/The Dedication of the Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin
	7:00	Eleanora Pacé
	9:00	Timothy Gage Zsiday
Fri	Nov 19	Weekday
	7:00	Richard Fazio
	9:00	William & Linda Corsa
Sat	Nov 20	Weekday
		COLLECTIVE:
		• Maria R. Ciancio
		• Ellen Rauhofer Kirkham
		• Josephine Blunda
		• James Lenihan
		• Claudio Morrone
	5:30	Kitty & Tony Gregorio, Rose Ferreira, Minnie Dalton & Warren Dixon
Sun	Nov 21	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
	7:00	The People of Seton Parish
	8:00	Frank Joseph Flannery
	9:30	Mike Harrington
	11:00	Jessica Marone
	12:30	Dec'd Mbrs Cook & Lavezzoli Families & Msgr. John J. Foley

WEEKLY MEMORIALS

The **Sanctuary Lamp**, indicating the Real Presence, burns in memory of **James O'Brien**.

The **Eternal Flame** in Our Lady Memorial Chapel, burning in memory of deceased children, and those lost on September 11, 2001, has been donated in memory of **Brad, Bradley & Tim Lewis**.

The **Sacramental Bread and Wine** were donated in memory of the **Deceased Members of the Yorktown Fr. John LaFarge Knights of Columbus**.

Select NOVEMBER Events

Thu/Fri, Nov 25/26 Thanksgiving-Rectory Closed
2nd Collections: Emergency Maintenance Fund, Catholic Charities Campaign, Music Ministry, Christmas Flowers

WELCOME TO SETON!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our visitors worshipping with us today. We are happy to have you with us. And, we hope that you are inspired by our parish family at prayer, and that all of our visitors will come worship with us again soon. *May God Bless You and Keep You!*

Today!!

High School Teen Group

The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Teen Group meets today, **Sunday November 14th from 5 PM to 7 PM**. Should you have any questions please, contact frsmith@seton-parish.org.

Today!!

Middle School Youth Group

We meet today, **Sunday, November 14th from 3 PM to 5 PM** in the School Gymnasium. Should you have any questions, please contact frsmith@seton-parish.org.

This Weekend!!!!

Thanksgiving at the Food Pantry

At all of the Masses today, Seton's Holy Name Society members are collecting non-perishable food to be delivered to The Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's in time for Thanksgiving. All parishioners are encouraged to contribute to this effort as a way to help those families in the area who are in need. **NOTE:** Please double check all expiration dates!

JOIN US IN THANKING FATHER FIGUEROA

Fr. Figueroa will return to Seton on Sunday, December 5th to offer the 12:30pm Mass. Reception to follow in the Auditorium. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Did You Miss the Parish Mission?

Videos of Jon Leonetti's dynamic and inspirational talks are available on our website. Go to www.seton-parish.org and scroll down to the portal for all parish Masses. There you will find recent parish Masses and special events livestreamed from our church. Scroll until you come to the Parish Mission. Visit Jon's website for more information and to sign-up for his daily devotional: www.jonleonetti.com. We have a couple of his *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Holiness* books available at the rectory for \$15.

HNS, KOC/Columbiettes & Ministers of Hospitality Deceased Member Mass

This **Tuesday, Nov. 16th**, please join us as we honor the memory of the deceased members of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Holy Name Society & Ministers of Hospitality, and Father John LaFarge Knights of Columbus & Columbiettes in a Memorial Mass at **7:00 PM** in the church. All are welcome.

Next Weekend

Second Collection: Archdiocesan November 20th/21st Catholic Charities Campaign

LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

As we begin the first phase of *ChristLife, Discovering Christ*, our focus as a parish turns to something we have talked much about, becoming missionary disciples of Christ. What is a missionary disciple? Missionary disciples: WORSHIP – enthusiastically praise God, give thanks for their many blessings and hunger for opportunities to encounter Jesus through the sacraments. They regularly attend Mass and frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please see our website for weekly instructional video shorts on Missionary Discipleship.

Prayer Shawls

The Seton Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in Annex A **today, Sunday, November 14 from 2-3 p.m.** All women of the Parish are welcome to join this rewarding ministry. Questions? Call Pam Adamovich, 845-528-4483.

It's Time to Come Home!
www.CatholicsComeHome.org

Altar Server Training

Boys and Girls who are in the 5th grade and above are eligible. SETON needs boys and girls who are: serious about their faith, reliable, trustworthy and able to work with others. Altar servers must complete at least six sessions of training. **The training sessions to be held in the church are:**

Tuesdays: 3:30 – 4:30pm

Wednesdays: 3:30 – 4:30pm

SESSION 1 – 11/16 or 11/17

2 – 11/23 or 11/24

3 – 11/30 or 12/1

4 – 12/7 or 12/8

5 – 12/14 or 12/15

6 – 12/21 or 12/22

Installation Mass TBD

If you are a boy or girl who is in the 5th grade and above, and you would like to be an altar server, contact Fr. Smith at frsmith@seton-parish.org.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

As is our custom, a person's name will appear for four weeks, after which it will be removed unless we hear from the family.

Joan Albanese, Baby Jake Joseph Alongi, Phyllis Angelillo, Joan Arena, Madelaine Berrigan, Carol Celestri, Kayla Chute, Linda Ciccarello, Joseph Ciraco, Ronald & Charlene Ciraco, Josephine Conklin, Clida Cook, Fr. Patrick Curley, Mario DellaValle, Edward DiCaprio, Mary DiVincenzo, Thelma Doebbler, Vincent Dolce, Linda Dwyer, Ryan Ebner, Madison Frost, Marie Gillespie, Seth Hamann, Catherine Hannagan, Arthur Hastings, Nicole Horwitt, James Howard, Ann Marie Imbriale, Vincent Kinane, Wayne Koshofer, Eileen Kostecke, Frank Maio, Tanya Mann, Chris Marvin, Angela Merrill, Lorraine Monastra, Peter Montegari, Siobhan Mooney, Michael Murphy, Joan Fontana Nastasi, Rian O'Halloran, William O'Reilly, Lt. Victor Prato, Howard Pressman, Diane M. Quinn, Christine Rock, Stephen Rodgers, Marguerite Thiemann, Kelly Usher, Lisa Usher, Mathew Weisgerber

Seton Seniors

Our parish's Senior Club meets every Thursday, from 10am-1pm in the Seton Parish Center. Thursday gatherings consist of an invited speaker with refreshments, followed by bingo, card games, small group classes and fraternity. Our Seton Center's main hall, deck and four class rooms are open to the group. All senior citizens are most welcome. **We are collecting canned and dry foods for November and December at our Thursday meetings.** Proceeds to Seton Rel Ed Food Drive. Contact seton@seton-parish.org for more information.

Care & Prepare:

End of Life Education Presentation

**Tuesday, Nov 30, 2021- 7pm @ St. Augustine's Parish
381 N Highland Ave, Ossining, NY**

Learn practical steps for navigating end of life decisions for yourself and for your loved ones. This free and informative workshop will give you the tools to access quality care, protect your loved ones and understand Church teachings on end of life. As legislation permitting physician-assisted suicide looms, it is more important than ever to be educated on the Church's end-of-life teachings and equipped with the necessary tools to care for yourself and others at this increasingly vulnerable time. **Featured Speakers: Ed Mechmann, Archdiocese of New York Director of Public Policy and The Sisters of Life.**

Seton's Bereavement Group

Seton's Bereavement Group meets Mondays from **11am-12:30pm** in the Parish Center's St. Joseph's Hall with moderators, Bea Schiavo and Mary Campo. More info, call **Mary Campo, 845-528-0775.**

Looking for that right person?

www.catholicsingles.com

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP YOU

If you use weekly envelopes for your contributions, please take the time to fill in the amount you are enclosing on the outside of the envelope. By doing so, you are not only making things a little bit easier for the wonderful members of our St. Matthew's Guild who count the collection each week, but you will ensure that you will be properly credited for your contribution. Also, please do not staple or tape the envelope closed. **Staples are DANGEROUS to our members.** Thank you!

Rosary Altar Society

Members don't forget reservations & payments for Christmas Luncheon on December 6th can be made.

Seton Spiritual Book Club

The Seton Spiritual Book Club will read *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary* by Brant Pitre for **November 15.** The meetings are once a month on Mondays, 9:45-11AM in Annex A. We hope to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord, as well as in friendship with each other. All women are welcome! Questions? Call Tere (914-629-9737) or Janet (914-245-9248).

A Note about Becoming Sponsors For Baptism and Confirmation

It is a great honor to be asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. The role of a “godparent” is to be an “other parent” in matters of our holy Faith. That is why sponsors must be **practicing Catholics, 16 years of age or older (14 years old in the Archdiocese of New York), having received Catholic Confirmation and currently living a good Christian moral life. If the sponsor is married, that person must be in a valid Catholic Church marriage.** One sponsor is required for Confirmation. It is customary to have two for Baptism, in which case one must be male and the other female. Parents may not be sponsors. A baptized non-Catholic may replace the second Baptism sponsor as a Christian witness. Non-Christians may not be Sponsors. Former Catholics may not be sponsors.

A nominated sponsor is asked to get certification from his/her current parish. This is a declaration by a priest/deacon that the individual is qualified to be a sponsor according to Church Law. To be so certified, the individual must be a **current parishioner of the particular parish where the certification is being sought, and be known to the priest/deacon as being a faithful practicing Catholic, attending Mass there weekly.**

Those away at college or graduate school or in the military should seek certification from their campus ministries or chaplains.

Unfortunately, at times, family members or friends are chosen to be sponsors with good intentions, but are found to be ineligible according to Church Law. Also, more and more, people seem to think that they are still “parishioners” of their childhood parish, where they attended school or received sacraments years ago, while no longer living in the area or attending Mass there regularly. **It is important for all individuals to be active members of their local Catholic faith communities.**

Here, at Seton, Certificates of Sponsorship are given by the pastor to registered members of the parish who are practicing Catholics, and who meet the above criteria. Please see the pastor after Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday to inquire about getting a certificate.

Be In-FORMED

We hope you are enjoying the parish subscription to www.formed.org which gives parishioners and members of the community free 24/7 access to over 300 quality Catholic online programs, 99+ movies, 101+ audios, & 98+ E-Books. Tomorrow we honor St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church and also the Patron of Scientists. Learn: *From Nothing to Cosmos: God and Science.* Watch: *The Gardener of God*, or read: *Who Designed the Designer?* You can also watch: *Saint Giuseppe Moscati: Doctor to the Poor.* The 18th is the Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles. Watch: *Sacred Arts: Sts. Peter and Paul* or *Jubilee.*

CHAPEL OPEN FOR ALL WEEKEND MASSES

We invite families with small children to use the chapel during Masses. The Mass is projected into the chapel and Holy Communion is distributed there.

Credo Young Adults

Theology on Tap with Cardinal Dolan!

Date: **Thursday, December 16 @ 7 PM**

Location: **Four Brothers Restaurant, Mahopac, NY**
Join Credo Young Adults and Catholic Young Adults of the Hudson Valley for their Theology on Tap with His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan on Thursday, December 16 @ 7 PM at Four Brothers Restaurant in Mahopac! The event is open to all young adults ages 18-39. There will be a food buffet included and a cash bar available to purchase drinks (only ages 21 and over can purchase alcohol). Tickets can be purchased on EventBrite by going to www.eventbrite.com and typing in “Theology on Tap with Cardinal Dolan” in the search box. Info, email CredoYoungAdults@outlook.com.

Online Giving with WeShare

Thank you for considering online giving for your support of our parish. Online giving is safe, simple, and convenient. It benefits our parish by helping to streamline our administrative process and providing more accurate budgeting. Please set up your online giving by clicking the link under the title, “New Donors” provided on our website, www.seton-parish.org.

Seton’s Men’s Ministry

All men are welcome to join us any Saturday morning in the Parish Center’s St. Joseph’s Hall from 7:30 to 8:30am for fellowship, prayer, and to discuss that Sunday’s Gospel reading. Contact seton@seton-parish.org for more information.

DECEASED PARISHIONERS

Parishioners who “passed from this life to the next” during the week of November 13th in previous years: **Baby Jeruis, Timothy Patrick Lewis, Josephine Tosto, William Murphy, Harold J. Brennan, Carmelina Ciardulo, Carmela Tarrente, Neal J. Michaels, Irma Graf, Mary-Ann Benedetto, Peter Matranga, Hugh Paul Sheridan, Mary R. Cassidy, Olympia Brescia, Carl Ferrazza, Ralph DeThomas, Ralph Mesisco, Wayne Auer, Richard Finn, Felix Oscar Muñoz, Jonathan Pawell, Mary Sheehan, Michael L. Boccardi, Stanley Mackiewicz, Phyllis F. Esposito, Tommasa Sottile, Beatrice Flynn, Fred Kufer, Santa Savo, Thomas Genis, John L. Logan, Mary Santucci, Thomas M. Reynolds, Sr., Alexander Forbes, Timothy Gage Zsiday, Joseph Francis Lyons, Elizabeth Hastings, Michael J. Sakowicz, Peter Colasurdo, Joseph Danoy, Joseph P. Collura, Virginia Jennings, Jacqueline A. Grande, Frances L. Capozza, Joseph J. Woods, Jeanette Saldo, Michael A. Cappelli, Anne T. McGrath, Linda Corsa, Catherine Fiorello, Raymond Merz, Raymond J. Stahl, Sr., Mary Ellen Rubino**

BULLETIN SPOTLIGHT

This week, Seton Parish highlights **Larry Jensen, Coins & Currency Collector** and **North View Home Inspections, LLC** whose advertisements at the rear of our bulletin, along with nearly 100 other local businesses, make possible the printing of this parish bulletin by the John Patrick Publishing Company, 52 weeks a year. **When the need arises, please patronize our advertisers.**

Purgatory Misconceptions

All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1030)

1. It's not just a giant waiting room, or a place or time at all. As St. John Paul II said, "The term does not indicate a place, but a condition of existence. Those who, after death, exist in a state of purification, are already in the love of Christ who removes from them the remnants of imperfection" (08/04/99). This makes it clear that after death, we will not all be sitting in a reception area, waiting for our name to be called so we can enter the Kingdom. We are outside the realm of time when we leave behind our earthly bodies, and as such, we have no measurement of what this purification requires.

2. It's not re-judgment, nor a trial for our souls. Our eternal resting place has already been determined, this is preparation for that place. Purgatory is the part of judgment where all of our imperfections, wrongdoings, ungodliness, and stains are purged before entrance into the Kingdom of God. Nothing impure or less than perfect may meet the Lord, and therefore we must be made pure in order to enter His Light. However, being made pure is not contingent on a second judgment; once we have "made it" to purgatory, so to speak, we already know we have been saved! We are simply being made perfect, as our Heavenly Father is perfect, so that we can enter into eternal praise and worship of Him.

3. It's not a do-over or a second chance. Our particular judgment happens at the moment of our death. We are immediately judged and it is established whether we choose to spend eternity with the Lord and the Communion of Saints, or whether we choose an eternity separated from all that is good and holy. Purgatory is not an opportunity for us to be confronted by our mistakes and try again. At this point, it has already been determined that we are saved! We actively choose this chance for a little extra help to be absolutely perfect before we make it to our final state of being one with God.

4. It's not an opportunity for repentance, nor is it punishment. Purgatory is not a confessional; there is no priest waiting to absolve us of our sins upon becoming part of this reality. Similarly, this is not a state of torture for all of our transgressions. Once we are dead, we cannot repent, do penance, or actively choose to sin no more (because we are dead... It's impossible to sin more.) The purification that we undergo is holy fire, but this does not equate to punishment. It is a purging and interior fire whose only pain lies in the fact that in that moment, we are not yet with God.

5. It's not up to you at all! Our purification and cleansing in purgatory depend on the prayers, penance, and indulgences of the living. After our deaths, we must rely on the goodness of those who survive to pray for us so that we might enter into the Kingdom. In purgatory, souls may intercede for the living, but not for themselves.

We only get one soul. The soul we are born with is the soul we will carry with us into eternal life. Because of this, everything we do in this life shapes what our souls will look like once we pass away. We are not just bodies! We are body and soul. The person we become during our earthly life does not disappear when we die! We have the opportunity now to become the whole person we would want to meet our Creator. **So let's do our very best to live in such a way that we acquire a taste for heaven and let us pray for the purification of the souls in purgatory!**



Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing

We know earthly death is not the end, but rather the door through which we must pass to gain eternal life. Because of our belief and hope in the Resurrection, we can face death not with fear, but with preparation. Although certainly not comprehensive, the following considerations are provided as starting points for understanding and preparing for this transition, whether it is imminent or not.

NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH¹

We prepare for eternal life by choosing to love and follow God now, in our daily lives and decisions. For example, through prayer and regular reception of the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, we obtain grace to live in ever-deeper communion with God and with one another in lives of faith, charity, and justice.² We ask for Our Blessed Mother's help now, and we entrust ourselves to her further as we "surrender 'the hour of our death' wholly to her care."³

FORMING OUR CONSCIENCES.....

Our journey with Christ naturally includes equipping our consciences to make morally good judgments and acting accordingly.⁴ Learning about the dignity of human life and the indispensable respect for it,⁵ as well as applicable principles for medical care, is particularly important in preparing for our eventual passing.

Some bishops offer guides applying moral principles to local legal options.⁶ Parish and online resources are also widely available for careful and prayerful study, and the *Ethical and Religious Directives* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops give direction for health care services to those who are seriously ill or dying.⁷

A NOTE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES.....

No summary can substitute for thorough catechesis, but some general principles are clear. We are entrusted by God with the gift of life, and in response, we care for our lives and health in obedience and gratitude to our Creator.

This obliges us to make use of appropriate, effective medical care. However, even effective treatments may at times impose such a great burden that we, in good conscience, may forgo or discontinue them. This applies even to life-sustaining treatments. Of course, nothing should be done or deliberately omitted to hasten death.⁸

The Church affirms the inviolable dignity of every person, regardless of the duration or extent of the person's incapacity or dependency. Nothing diminishes the unchangeable dignity and sanctity of a person's life, or the obligation to protect and care for it. In principle, assisted feeding and hydration should be provided unless it cannot sustain life or is unduly burdensome to the patient, or if death is imminent whether it is provided or not.

Moreover, no one should choose suicide, nor counsel or assist another to take his or her own life.

DISCERNING TREATMENT OPTIONS.....

Judging the effect and burden of treatments can be difficult, especially as death draws near. To understand health facts and treatment options, we need professional medical advice. To understand Catholic moral teaching, we need to consult Church teaching and those who can faithfully explain it.

SPEAKING WITH LOVED ONES.....

After informing our consciences, we need to inform our families. If we are unable to make decisions, they most often have legal authority to make surrogate decisions on our behalf. Or we may designate a health care agent by a durable power of attorney.

Though it is often helpful to also have written, signed documentation, no living will "checkbox" can ever replace clear conversations about our faith-guided principles. The best option is to choose an agent who will make medical decisions on our behalf in accord with our Catholic faith and Church teaching.