

## Excerpts from [A Catholic Guide to Critical End of Life Decisions](#)

I believe:

- God created me for eternal life.
- My life is a precious gift from God.
- I am created in God's image and likeness.
- These truths inform all my decisions about health care.
- I have a duty to preserve my life and to use it for God's glory.
- Acts that intentionally and directly cause my death, e.g., physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, are never morally permissible.
- Death is an inevitable part of life and is a transition to eternal life.
- Death has been redeemed by Christ and I do not need to resist it by any and every means.

I understand that:

- Medical treatments may be foregone or withdrawn if they offer no reasonable hope of benefit, are excessively burdensome, and only prolong my dying.
- There should be a presumption in favor of artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH) unless it is of no benefit to me.
- I can use medications and treatments that bring comfort and relieve pain, even if they indirectly and unintentionally shorten my life.
- When I am ill, I ask that all efforts be made that I receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist.
- I do not want to be deprived of consciousness without a serious medical reason.

Guiding Values:

- We are stewards of what has been given to us, i.e., natural creation, our lives, and our bodies.
- We do not have the right to take our own lives, or to directly bring about the death of any innocent person. Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide are always immoral attacks on human life.