

# ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVES



# Requirements for Advance Directives

- ▣ You are neither legally or morally required to have an Advance Directive document in the State of North Carolina.

# Why should I create an Advance Medical Directive?

- ▣ Medical and Legal Authorities will be bound to respect your wishes.
- ▣ Your family will be apprised of your wishes before such time as you are unable to express those wishes.
- ▣ You can ensure the moral teachings of the Catholic Church are followed when health care decisions are made on your behalf.

# Risks of Not having an Advance Medical Directive

- ▣ Your specific directions for your medical care may not be known or may be ignored.
- ▣ Decisions may be made by other family members than the person you would have chosen.
- ▣ Your family will face the burden of making decisions for you without your guidance and if they cannot agree, the burden of going through court proceedings.
- ▣ Moral aspects of these directives as taught by the Catholic Church may not be observed.

# What is the process to Create an Advance Directive in North Carolina?

1. Put your health care wishes in writing
2. Sign the document
3. Have two witnesses sign and have their signatures notarized

Note: a legally binding form is included in this document.

# Particular Instructions Regarding Life-Prolonging Treatment

You will have the opportunity to choose one of the choices below:

1. Permit me to die naturally with only the medical procedures deemed necessary to ensure my comfort and alleviate pain (Note: continuing to provide nutrition and hydration is in accordance with Catholic Teaching unless it is of no benefit or burdensome).
2. Continue all treatments to prolong my life within the limits of generally accepted health care standards.
3. Allow my Health Care Agent to make end-of-life decisions based on my known values and wishes.



# General Instructions: A Presumption for Life!

Among these:

- ▣ I believe I have come from God and will return to God in God's time, not mine.
- ▣ I reject treatment that uses any tissue or organ of an unborn or newborn child who is a product of induced abortion.
- ▣ I direct that medical treatment be provided without discrimination based on the perceived "quality" of my life.
- ▣ I direct that my life not be ended by euthanasia.
- ▣ I wish to follow the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. (If seriously ill or in a terminal condition, I request the sacraments of reconciliation, anointing of the sick and Viaticum.)

May Mary, the Mother of God,  
intercede for us now  
and at the hour of our death