Killing the Pain, Not the Patient: Palliative Care vs. Assisted Suicide

Read the full version at usccb.org/killing-the-pain.

Assisted suicide is in the news and on lawmakers’ agendas. Supporters call it “aid in dying” & claim it’s just another option for end-of-life care. But it’s radically different from the practice of palliative care, the healing art of relieving pain and other distressing symptoms for patients who are seriously ill. Palliative care intends to comfort a patient, addressing physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs. Assisted suicide, by contrast, directly intends the patient’s death. It ignores any underlying problems, and instead abandons and eliminates the patient who has the problems.

As a society and as individuals, we must dedicate ourselves to providing genuinely compassionate care that protects God’s gift of life.

This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2018, USCCB, Washington.
MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018
5:00 PM – Special Intention of Christopher Wicker family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Karen Kroft & Deborah Weitkamp

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018
NO MASS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018
9:00 AM + Helen Dillman

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention of Joan Crawford

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018
9:00 AM + Erin M. Avery

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018
9:00 AM – Special Intention of Ken Jacoby

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018
5:00 PM – Special Intention of Ron & Violet Heinning on their 55th Wedding Anniversary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
11:15 AM + Diane Frey

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Jeremiah 31:7-9
Hebrews 5:1-6
Mark 10:46-52

SICK OF THE PARISH – Please keep our members in your thoughts:

IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Larry Aumen, brother of Bertie Kuhn, who died this week.

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Oct. 27-28
5:00 PM: Harrison, Landon & Ella Smith
8:15 AM: Amelia & Adam Gerringer, Nathan Maysilles
11:15 AM: Margaret, Clare & Nora Mailey
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Oct. 27-28
5 PM Mass – Betsy Miriello
8:15 AM Mass – Nick Stollar
11:15 AM Mass – Luz Socrates
Coordinator is Dianne Giampietro.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Oct. 27-28
5:00 PM: Rose Dietz, Randy & Pat Slonaker, Janet Todt, Amanda Wicker
8:15 AM: Doug Barnhart, Marie & Richard Danglovitch, John & Kelli Maysilles
11:15 AM: Dianne Giampietro, Bonnie Hensel, Diane Schaline, Barb Wantz, Claire Wentz
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” Should the Lord direct these words to you in prayer, how will you respond? As a priest or in the consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Marcoe or Fr. Brian Wayne, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 frbwayne@hbgdiocese.org or check out www.dioceseanpriest.com.
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1. On Oct. 23 and 24, Fr. Dave Pivonka (the host of The Wild Goose series) is coming to St. Francis Xavier Parish in Gettysburg (at the Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg). On Tuesday evening the doors will open at 6pm. Fr. Dave will begin at 7pm, finishing around 8pm. Then, Confessions will be held following. On Wednesday evening the doors will open at 6pm, and Fr. Dave will begin at 7pm. This evening will feature an amazing time of Eucharistic Adoration and Procession as well as healing prayers, finishing around 8:30pm. I have heard Fr. Dave speak before, and HIGHLY recommend attending this event! To register, please contact Kathy Reid (chair of St. Francis’ Evangelization Committee) at evangelized.blessed@gmail.com. There is no ticket fee; a free will offering will be collected each evening to assist Fr. Dave in his important work outreach ing to active and inactive Catholics. I will be going at least one of the nights!

2. On October 27th from 8:15 to 9:15pm, Fusion will be hosting a Festival of Praise in the church. This is an experience of Eucharistic Adoration, combined with contemporary Christian music and a witness talk. Please join us for this powerful time!!

3. On October 28th from 12:15 to 3pm in the church, there will be a special time of Eucharistic Adoration in celebration of Respect Life month. Come join us for prayers in reparation for sins committed against life, and pray for an abundance of God’s grace to transform our society into a Culture of Life!

4. From the devotional Jesus Today: “Gaze at Me; Glance at problems – this is the secret of living victoriously. Your tendency is to gaze at problems for prolonged periods of time, glancing at Me for help. This is natural for someone with a fallen mind living in a fallen world. However, I have called you to live supernaturally, and I have empowered you to do so. The Holy Spirit, who lives in all My followers, enables you to live beyond yourself – to transcend your natural tendencies.

   “Ask My Spirit to help you fix your gaze on Me. Invite Him to alert you whenever you get overly focused on problems so you can redirect your attention to Me. This is hard work, because it is not only unnatural but also countercultural. Moreover, the evil one and his demons seek to distract you from My Presence. All these influences working together put massive pressure on you to pay attention to your problems – or else! So you need the assistance of My Spirit continually. Ask Him to help you deal with difficulties continually. Ask Him to help you deal with difficulties as needed, while reserving the bulk of your attention for Me – your constant Companion.”

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT –

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TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME $45,668.08

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

- Capital Improvements $1,557.20
- Peter’s Pence Collection $1,401.00

GROCERY CERTIFICATES – Please know how very grateful we are to all of you who support our Grocery Certificate Program and ultimately our Religious Education Program. During the week of Oct. 14, 2018 we sold $530 for a profit of $26.50.

COOKIES FOR WORLD HUNGER – Again this year, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish will join other parishes in the Diocese to participate in the Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger. Orders will be taken Nov. 17th through Dec. 2nd and cookies will be delivered to the parish by Saturday, Dec. 8th for distribution. More details will follow.

VETERANS DAY DINNER – The annual Veterans Day Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd at 6:15 PM in the social hall. The cost is $10 for adults and $5 for kids ages 5-16. Veterans eat free as our guests. Tickets will be sold after Masses in October. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PENNSYLVANIA WOUNDED WARRIORS.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER to benefit the K of C Catholic Charities for Hurricane Relief will be held Saturday, Nov. 10th at 6:15 PM in our parish social hall. Tickets will be sold after Masses on Oct. 27th and 28th as well as Nov. 3rd and 4th. For more info, contact Ken Glass at 717-814-0265.

MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS – The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving a presentation concerning marriage, divorce and annulment according to Church teaching. This presentation will be helpful for divorced Catholics, those divorced who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and any others who may have a vested interest because of family or friends. This session will be held on Nov. 5th at 7 PM in the Diocesan Conference Center of the diocesan office building in Harrisburg. No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, ext 304, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments or email tribunal@hbgdiocese.org.
RESPECT LIFE NEWS –
Did you know that October is Respect Life month? This is a month when we are invited as a whole to renew our dedication to uplifting the inherent, God-given dignity of all human life from conception until natural death. Public witness is a great way to spread the Gospel of Love and change hearts. As part of our efforts to show support for our belief in the gospel of life, we will be having several parish sponsored activities, allowing an opportunity for united parish participation. Please also note the diocesan events for Respect Life that are listed as well.

+ A Free Defense of the Faith Presentation open to the public, will be hosted on Wednesday, Oct. 24th at 7 PM at the Eden Resort and Conference Center, 222 Eden Road, Lancaster. Guest speakers will include Rev. Tad Pacholczyk, a bioethicist, from the National Catholic Bioethics Center – discussing Assisted Suicide from a moral Perspective. Also, Mr. Wesley Smith, author, commentator and legal consultant to the Patients’ Rights Council, will be discussing Assisted Suicide and it’s disastrous effects from a political and cultural landscape. Many other life topics will be discussed surrounding these issues. To register, please visit https://maltaevents.ticketleap.com/ptb/

+ Immaculate Heart of Mary will have a time of Eucharistic Adoration on Sunday, Oct. 28th, following the 11:15 Mass until 3 PM. This will be a time of prayer devoted to Respect Life issues, including the Holy Rosary and ending with The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Please come and spend some time in prayer, as we close Respect Life month, giving thanks for the gift of our lives – our loved ones, and as we continue asking Our Lord for direction in growing a Culture of Life for all God’s children.

FUSION - Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary’s youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.

Did You Know? October 20th is the feast day of St. Paul of the Cross. While praying in ecstasy, he had a vision of a habit that he and his companions were meant to wear. He believed that God wanted him to establish a congregation in honor of the Passion of Jesus Christ. For over 50 years, he remained the indefatigable missionary of Italy. His saintly death occurred at Rome in 1775.
LOCAL CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

Annunciation Parish Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 2 PM in the school hall, 316 North St., McSherrystown. Breakfast & lunch are available for purchase. Fall items & Christmas items available for purchase. Decorated trees & wreaths, baked goods, outdoor items, filled box and filled basket raffle and childcare is available.

St. Vincent’s, Hanover will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 8 AM – 1 PM.

St. Francis Xavier Gift Fair and Holiday Bazaar
Nov. 10th from 8AM – 2:30 PM at the Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg. Vendors, fair trade items, timeless treasures, collectibles, children’s activities, baked goods, raffles and door prizes. Café serving breakfast and lunch items.

St. Joseph, Hanover Christmas Bazaar
Will be held on Saturday, Nov. 10th from 8 AM – 2 PM.

St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School will host their 2018 Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show On Saturday, Nov. 17th from 9 AM – 3 PM. The bazaar will be held in the Sacred Heart Gym at the Conewago campus, 55 Basilica Dr., Hanover. We will have a variety of commercial vendors and one of a kind products made by local artisans. Our famous “Classroom Basket Raffle” and “Silent Auction” will return this year with items that are sure to please everyone! Small games of chance will be available. Come eat breakfast or lunch with us. Santa will be there from 9 am – 1 pm, so be sure to bring your little ones! Hope to see you there!

Immaculate Heart of Mary Christmas Bazaar
Will be held Saturday, Nov. 17th from 8 AM – 2 PM. Enjoy a day of fun, food and yummy treats. Start/Finish your Christmas shopping. Find that “special gift” for that “special someone”! Breakfast and lunch can be purchased as you shop.

Immaculate Conception BVM, New Oxford
Will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 1st from 8AM – 2 PM.
SPAGHETTI DINNER – The Knights of Columbus will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Nov. 10th after the 5 PM Mass. All proceeds will go to the victims of Hurricane Florence. Tickets are $3 for children ages 5-10 and $7 for ages 10 and above. There will be a jar at the dinner for additional donations if anyone would like to donate. See the posters on the bulletin boards for ticket information. We will be selling tickets after Masses on the weekends of Oct. 27th/28th and Nov. 3rd/4th.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – On Saturday, Nov. 17th from 9 AM – 3 PM, St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School will host the 2018 Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show. The bazaar will be held in the Sacred Heart Gym at the Conewago campus, 55 Basilica Dr., Hanover. We will have a variety of commercial vendors and one of a kind products made by local artisans. Our famous “Classroom Basket Raffle” and “Silent Auction” will return this year with items that are sure to please everyone! Small games of chance will be available. Come eat breakfast or lunch with us. Santa will be there from 9 am – 1 pm, so be sure to bring your little ones! Hope to see you there!

MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – The Diocese of Harrisburg’s annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities will be held on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 at 11:30 AM at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg. Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the Celebrant and Homilist. This year also marks the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the 1978 Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities. A light reception will follow the Mass, which will include reflections on the 1978 Pastoral Statement. To assist with planning, it is requested that those attending from outside St. Catherine Laboure Parish or in need of any special accommodations, kindly RSVP to LKiley@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 ext. 322 prior to Nov. 9, 2018. All are welcome to attend.

PCCW – Are you celebrating a special wedding anniversary this year? Were you married 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years ago? A special mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Oct. 20th here at IHM at the 5 PM Mass. Fr. Marcoe will give the couples a special blessing. A reception of cake and coffee will follow in the church social hall. If interested in attending, you can sign up on the sheets on the window sills or call Pat Slonaker at 717-624-3245 by Oct. 14th. If you have a wedding picture you would like to share, please place it in the PCCW bin in the social hall.
ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on Sept. 5th served 75 families which included 202 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on Sept. 6th was 23 for a total of 50 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, Oct. 3rd at the East Berlin location is [www.volunteersignup.org/9WQCB](http://www.volunteersignup.org/9WQCB) and Thursday, Oct. 4th at the Abbottstown location is [www.volunteersignup.org/KY8CD](http://www.volunteersignup.org/KY8CD). Please remember to drop off health/beauty aid items, such as soaps, toothbrushes, diapers, as well LAUNDRY DETERGENT, etc. and place them in the food pantry barrels.

PARISH CARING COMMITTEE – Assists parishioners on an as needed basis, in times of need or stress and provides visitation, care giver relief, meals, errands, light household chores and local transportation. To request assistance or to become a Caring Committee Volunteer, contact Jen Gentile at 717-225-5059.

PRAYER SHawl MINISTRY – CAN YOU DONATE NEW YARN? During the last year, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has made over 50 items for our own parishioners, Rachel’s Vineyard retreatants, Cross Keys Village Skilled Nursing patients, Spirittrust Lutheran hospice and Hanover Hospital Maternity. We rely on your donations to help with our yarn expense. We can always use red, white and blue yarn for military veterans in hospice care. Please drop off your donations in the covered gray boxes at the entrances to the church. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please call the parish office at 717-259-0611. Thank you!

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT –

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SECOND COLLECTIONS:

- Capital Improvements: 1,722.80
- Aug. 15th: 1,398.00

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - The Parish Pastoral Council would like to announce that we had two members of our parish community volunteer to serve on the council. Please join us in thanking and welcoming Rosemary Connelly and Lynn Murphy to the council. Given that there were only two vacancies, there will be no need to hold elections as in some years past. The Pastoral Council is here to serve our parish family. Please feel free to talk with any of the members when you have concerns, ideas or questions.

AERO ENERGY HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM – This program was established to provide Aero Energy customers an opportunity to give to our church. To participate, Aero Energy customers sign up by phone or online and Aero Energy donates 4 cents for every gallon of fuel they use to us. Please call if you are not already part of this wonderful program. It’s an easy way to benefit Immaculate Heart of Mary. Call 888-827-17136.

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Check out our new website at [www.ihmparadise.org](http://www.ihmparadise.org).

CHOIR – Choir rehearsals start next Sunday, Sept. 16th, at 9:40 AM in the choir loft of the church. The choir is open to everyone, please come and join us! Contact Kathy Schwar at 717-259-9086 or Roy Wainwright at 717-619-7243 if you are interested or have questions.

TWO EVENINGS WITH FR. DAVE PIVONKA, TOR

Location: Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Rd., Gettysburg

Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct. 23/24. Doors open 6 PM

Join Father Dave Pivonka, TOR for two evenings of conversation about the Holy Spirit in our lives. An internationally popular speaker, Father Dave spends much of his time helping others come to know God’s love for them through his dynamic preaching, writing, CD’s, and other spiritual outreaches. He held several ministry positions at Franciscan University, and is presently the director of Franciscan Pathways, an evangelistic and preaching outreach of the T.O.R.’s (Third Order Regulars, a congregation of the Franciscans). Hosted by the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Evangelization Committee of Gettysburg. Praise and Worship music begins at 6:30 PM. Father Dave begins at 7 PM. Plenty of free parking. ADA and Handicapped accessible venue and bathrooms. There is no ticket fee, a free will offering will be collected each evening to assist Father Dave in his important work outreaching to active and inactive Catholics. Contact Kathy Reid, Chair, Evangelization Committee. Email: [evangelized.blessed@gmail.com](mailto:evangelized.blessed@gmail.com). Fr. Marcoe has been on retreat with Fr. Dave before and highly recommends going to hear him speak!

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK
**SUGGESTION CARDS** are available on the back ledges and at the entrances of the church. If you have any suggestions on how to make our parish better, please fill one out and return it in the collection basket.

**HIPPA LAWS** – Please note that HIPPA (health care privacy laws) prevent hospitals from automatically notifying the parish office when you are in the hospital. Therefore, we ask you to please give consent (permission) for the parish office to be notified. If you would like Fr. Marcoe to know of your hospitalization, please inform the parish office before going into the hospital OR once hospitalized, ask the nurse or hospital chaplain/pastoral care staff person to notify the parish.

**SUMMER WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:**
- **Saturday 5 PM,**
- **Sunday 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM**

**MASS INTENTIONS** – Mass intentions are a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, remember those who have died or are sick and in need of our prayers. Please consider this as a “gift” for someone. Call Anita in the Parish Office to arrange your Mass intentions.

**FLOWERS** – Looking for a way to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? A beautiful way would be to order flowers on the altar. Most weekends are available from now through the end of the year. Please call Anita in the parish office to make arrangements.

**LOST AND FOUND** – Please check our Lost and Found bin in the sacristy for any items you may have left in Church. Any unclaimed items will be discarded.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:
- **FIRST HONORS:** Julia O’Brien, Audrey Sell and Harrison Smith
- **SECOND HONORS:** Christian Powell
- **COMMENDABLE EFFORT:** Abigail Sell

**WEEKDAY MASS PARKING** – Anyone attending the weekday Masses are asked to park in the lot beside and behind the Church whenever there is snow and ice. This parking area will be made ready first for anyone on the property.

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION** – Please keep collecting and sending in those BoxTops for Education for St. Teresa School. If you’d like to help out trimming those BoxTops, please contact kwenger@hotmail.com. All help is appreciated!

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT** – It has been noted that some people, who are dropped off or picked up for Mass, are doing so at the steps right along West Canal Road. Especially at night, and given the adjacent hill, it is deemed this is unsafe given the speed and flow of traffic. For accessible and safe access to the Church at all times, please use the side social hall doors. Thank you.

**EVENT NOTICE** – I have been a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for more than 40 years and employed in the newspaper business for more than 20 years. We have many wonderful events happening here at our parish and we’d like to get the word out to the public. Please feel free to send me any events that would be of interest to our local community – from Lenten dinners to youth events to Bible studies and everything in between! You can send information to: 6fletch@embarqmail.com. Don’t forget to tell me the following: WHAT is the event? WHO is invited? WHEN is the event? WHERE is the event? WHY should people attend? HOW can they get more information? If you have any questions, fee free to call or text me at 717-357-8051. Thank you! Holly Fletcher

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING SERVICE** – Outpatient Behavioral Health Care is dedicated to providing access to high quality outpatient counseling for children, adolescents and adults in a small, friendly, confidential office. Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling and parent-child counseling. Services are provided regardless of religious affiliation. Accepting Medical Assistance insurance (Medicaid) and County Mental Health funding (York and Dauphin Counties, for low income uninsured people who are determined to be eligible). Other clients can pay fee on a sliding scale. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Not accepting private/commercial insurances. Local offices are York Counseling, 253 E. Market St., York (717-845-2696) and Paradise Counseling, 6156 W. Canal Rd, Abbottstown (717-259-9537 – press 0 for secretary). Visit www.cchbg.org for more information.

**HEARING IMPAIRED** – Anyone who is hearing impaired may find it helpful to sit in Pew #9 on the Sacristy side. You will notice “hearing impaired” stickers on the side of the pew to indicate the best place to sit if you are hearing impaired.

**HANDICAP PARKING** – Please note that handicap parking spaces are available for parking near the social hall entrance to the Church. If you are attending the 11:15 AM Mass, in order to avoid the traffic associated with religious education letting out, the following two options are recommended: EITHER come in the EXIT lane BEFORE 11 AM, OR come in the usual entrance way AFTER approximately 11:07 AM.

**CHILDREN’S CHAPEL** – For everyone’s information, especially for those who may be new to our parish, there
is a so-called Children's Chapel or Cry Room here in the Church. It's located in the front left corner of the church, where a restroom is also located. As a parish family, we want children and families to be welcome here at Mass, and so it's important to have an appropriate place in the church for babies and young children when they get fussy and need extra attention. We really want to encourage parents to use this space to tend to their children as needed. Please, feel free to just get up when need be from the body of the church, and utilize this space. Then you can better tend to your children without feeling like you're being watched. And this will also allow the other parishioners to be able to more fully focus on worshipping.

PRAYER SHAWLS – Are you in need of a prayer shawl? Do you know someone who is? Please call Jan Melhorn at 308-2532. The next prayer shawl meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 14th at 1 PM in Room #3 of the RE Building. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we can teach you. Skeins of new yarn are always welcome and there are bins at the church entrances for these donations.

CREMATION
Since 1963, Catholics have been allowed to choose cremation over burial as a means of laying a loved one to rest. Cremation is a popular choice since it is less expensive and more manageable than a full burial. Cremation, like death, is final. But that doesn't mean you won't have second thoughts. Susan Skiles Luke, a marketing consultant in Columbia, Missouri, had her mother cremated and buried in a family plot. Now, she wishes it was her mother's body and not just the cremated remains that was in the grave. "When I go there, which isn't often, I want to feel like her body is under ground, right alongside my grandparents and beloved great aunt, all dressed up in their Sunday best..."

Although creation is permitted, some Catholics have not been dealing properly with their loved ones remains. Common practices include scattering ashes, parting ashes out to friends and relatives, and keeping the ashes in a common area, such as a living room. While scattering ashes may seem romantic to some (but is also contrary to Catholic teaching), there's something to be said about keeping your loved one in once place, and then marking that place with a name. "We mark the graves of our loved ones with a headstone to memorialize them, so we don't forget them". When visiting that person's grave, just seeing his or her name can give comfort.

To instruct the faithful in this regard, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has issued updated guidelines. According to these, burial is still preferred, but cremation is an option. When a loved one has been cremated, their ashes must be kept intact, the same as one would treat a body. The ashes may not be separated or scattered. Instead, they should remain in a proper vessel that is interred in a proper place, such as a cemetery or church. Finally, the document stresses that Catholics who choose cremation for reasons contrary to the faith, (e.g., to have their ashes scattered) must be denied a Christian funeral.

In the end, whether cremation or burial is chosen, we await from the grave the second coming of Jesus Christ and the blessed Resurrection of the Dead.

Tips for talking to children about difficult subjects/news reports

The topic of sex abuse, particularly child sex abuse, is a daunting one for parents. Every parent must consider many factors including the best age-appropriate way to discuss the topic. Below are some points to consider adapted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and First Things First.

1. Make sure you are composed before you talk with your child.
2. If you believe your child is aware of news concerning abuse in the diocese, start the conversation. Not talking about a difficult event can make the event even more threatening in your child’s mind.
3. Listen carefully to what your child is asking or talking about.
4. Clarify just what any concerns are before you answer. Sometimes we make assumptions and give far more information than what the child needs.
5. Keep your answers simple and brief. Don’t answer questions that have not been asked. Do not overload your child with information that is beyond his/her level of understanding.
6. Assure your child that you and other adults that are in charge are doing everything possible to make sure they will be safe. This will give them a sense that adults are actively taking steps to protect those who are currently suffering.
7. Don’t make guarantees that such a thing can never happen again. Words like “never” and “always” should be used very carefully because small children trust that this is a promise from you.
8. Explain that we do not know why people treat other people badly.
9. Try to limit your child’s exposure to media coverage. A child believes what he or she sees on television, or in the newspapers is always true.
10. Let your children know about successful community efforts. You may want to share positive media images, such as reports of individuals helping those in need.

Additional information is available at www.YouthProtectionHBG.com