

NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BISHOPS LAUNCH WEBSITE AS RESOURCE FOR CATHOLICS FACING END-OF-LIFE ISSUES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 25, 2006

CONTACT: Carol Hogan
916/313-4019

The California Catholic Conference of Bishops has launched a website, www.EmbracingOurDying.com, which is designed as a resource for Catholics facing end-of-life issues. The site includes an overview of Catholic moral theology on death and dying, information on current medical and hospital practices, a summary of the state of the law and downloadable advance directives, facts about parish health ministry, hospice care and other parish-based services, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ). In addition, the site contains a number of the pages in Spanish.

In 1999, proponents of the legalization of “assisted suicide” attempted to convince the public that such a law was needed to deal with thorny end-of-life issues. Although they were unsuccessful, the bishops were alarmed at the number of Catholics who were persuaded (according to the polls) that “assisted suicide” ought to be an option. Between 2000 and 2002, the Bishops of the 12 California (arch) dioceses sponsored a series of educational symposiums for clergy and parish leadership entitled “Embracing Our Dying.” That name was chosen to reflect the fact that if those who are dying are embraced by their family and their community, they will not seek death, but will live their last days well, and then accept death when it comes. The California Catholic Conference of Bishops first launched the website as a supplemental resource for those who attended the workshops. Now, four years later – and following the defeat of yet another attempt to legalize “assisted suicide” in California – the Bishops of California have restructured and re-launched the website as resource for anyone seeking the Church’s perspective on death and dying, end-of-life issues and parish ministry.

Included among the documents available in downloadable format (pdf) on the website are bulletin inserts for use in parishes. These inserts advertise the availability of the website and give a brief overview of the information that can be accessed there.

More information: www.embracingourdying.com

###