



**ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

PASTORAL CENTER: COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

**MEMO**

**TO:** Presbyterate of Orange

**FROM:** Ryan Lilyengren, APR, MA

**CC:**

**DATE:** March 9, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Assisted Suicide Information & Resources

Following a groundswell of community response to the tragic death of Brittany Maynard, a young woman diagnosed with terminal brain cancer that traveled to Oregon to end her life, several state legislators have introduced the *End of Life Option Act* (SB 128) that would allow California physicians to prescribe life ending barbiturates to assist patients in committing suicide.

A large coalition of those opposed to this bill has been organized to lead our opposition - *Californians Against Assisted Suicide*. The Diocese of Orange is also taking this important opportunity to educate the faithful with regard to the end of life and the teachings of the Church. Included here are resources that can be used within your parish to educate and form your parishioners about assisted suicide and the Church's teachings on the end of life. There is also detailed information about SB 128 and how the faithful can actively advocate against its passage.

Additionally, we have included a schedule of upcoming activities and communications efforts regarding this legislation and a list of materials that will assist in your advocacy and formation efforts. The center piece of this effort is a pre-written homily (attached here) that we hope all priests will consider delivering on March 22.

Sincerely in Christ,

Ryan Lilyengren  
Director of Communications  
Diocese of Orange



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### Outreach Schedule

- March 22 – All priests encouraged to deliver prepared Homily
- March 22 – OC Catholic feature re assisted suicide
- April 11 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) – [Dignity and Courage at the End of Life Conference at Servite High School](#).
- April 12 - OC Catholic feature re assisted suicide

### Resources Included

- Sample Homily (Attached) – Please consider using this homily or leveraging as a resource in drafting your own homily to be delivered on March 22.
- [Position Statement](#) – Consider posting on parish website or providing in response to parishioner questions.
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
- [Messaging](#) – This is an internal resource to help you and parish leadership to maintain a consistent and well formulated message regarding assisted suicide.
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
- [Talking Points](#) – Please provide these talking points to consultative committees and parish leadership to help them in discussing assisted suicide with community members.
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Vietnamese](#)
- Bulleting ads – These are sample bulletin ads that you can quickly ad to your bulletin.
  - [Version one](#)
  - [Version two](#)
  - [Version three](#)

For More information visit - <http://www.lifejusticepeace.org/advocacy/end-of-life-issues-euthanasia/>