



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

October 2003

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Administrators and Parish Staffs,

Your parish recently received a letter from Bishop Matthew Clark explaining the efforts in our Diocese to help people understand the issues they may face at the end of life, articulate their desires for care at the end of life and complete advance care directives. As promised, a supply of *Advance Care Planning* booklets published by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and *Health Care Proxy: A Guide for Catholics* is delivered to you today.

These publications should be used together. The *Health Care Proxy: A Guide for Catholics* contains information about the teachings of the Catholic Church. Please review this information when considering end of life issues. The *Advance Care Planning* gives practical advice on ways to discuss this issue with your loved ones. It also provides the most up to date legal instrument used in New York State to convey end of life wishes. Use the forms contained in the *Advance Care Planning Booklet* to document your wishes.

As suggested in the information sent to your parish, an excellent weekend to address this sensitive matter is the weekend of the Feast of all Souls. Homily helps, intercessions and bulletin announcements are included in that package. Should you require another package, you can find the information electronically on Diocesan Updates or request another from the Diocesan Life Issues Office through e-mail to [Armantrout@dor.org](mailto:Armantrout@dor.org) or by calling Ms. Jann Armantrout at (585) 328-3210.

November is National Hospice Month. Information about hospice resources and comfort care homes in our area was also included in the previously mailed package. Please retain this information as a resource for your parishioners.

Thank you for your assistance in helping all our people consider and make know their end of life issues.

Sincerely,

Jann K. Armantrout  
Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator

Bernard Grizard  
Director, Parish Support Ministries

Thomas Driscoll  
St. Bernard's School of Theology