

## Remarks from the Right Reverend Jack M. McKelvey

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The end of life is part of life. As such, it deserves its proper planning. As stewards of all that God has given us, a good steward cares for his or her life and makes appropriate plans. Christian theology tells us that death is not the end of life. Rather, it is another transition, one in which we can give loving care to those who love us.

Our call as creatures of God is to extend care and love for self and for others as best we can. A Living Will or end of life directive is one way of offering our love. To leave others without making them aware of our end of life issues and desires adds a burden to a very stressful time. Decisions about the prolonging of dying by extraordinary means fall to those who are already broken by grief. Conversely, to inform our caretakers and loved ones of our desire to have death with dignity and integrity is the last loving gift we can give.

I encourage all who are listening to begin, to continue, or to reflect anew upon your end of life decisions and to give one more loving gift at this important time of your life.