

Caring for the Whole Person Initiative Statement

“As Church and Catholic health Care leaders in California, we believe that physician-assisted suicide, while legal, is not yet an entrenched cultural or clinical reality. Recognizing this, we are committed to developing together, and in collaboration with other leaders in the palliative care field, a medical and pastoral approach to care through the end of life that provides a dignified, compassionate, and loving alternative to physician assisted suicide for seriously ill people and their families. Our intent is to create a Church and Catholic health care collaborative model that serves our California parishioners and patients well, and that can be replicated by Church and Catholic health care leaders in other states”

Vision of Caring for the whole Person

Persons in our congregations, communities and hospitals are loved, wanted and worthy and will be prepared for and supported in health and serious illness through the end of life.

⌘ **Purpose**

Strengthen and improve the availability of CWP and palliative care in Catholic health systems and their hospitals and Develop and implement CWP programs in Dioceses and Parishes.

⌘ **Goals**

The Health care System and Dioceses commit to the implementation of CWP in each of their hospitals and parishes.

The CWPI provides each Health Ministry, Diocese and Parish with tools, resources, guidance, and other supports to implement CWP.

Culture of Life; “Culture includes all the ways in which mankind manifests itself: values, vices, and in social, political, artistic and religious structures…

When a culture is capable of protecting and encouraging this vision of mankind through its political, social, economic and legal structures, it can be called a ‘culture of life’ Building such a culture not only requires the collaboration of society’s leaders, but it is also a duty and a right of all Christians. As Catholics, in every circumstance, we must do all we can to build a culture of life.”

A will to live: Clear Answers on” End of Life Issues “ by Jose H. Gomez

Brief Evolution of the Whole Person Care.

1960s HOSPICE (for people who are dying and their families) Emerged a team approach to alleviating suffering and improving quality of life for dying people.

1990s PALLIATIVE CARE (for people who are seriously ill and their families) was in response to the question “Why do we require people to be dying- and forgo life prolonging treatments- to receive this quality of care”.

2020 Whole People care (for everyone) in response to the question “Why do we require people to be so ill to receive this quality of care” ALL patients deserve care that is medically excellent, goal- aligned and provided within the context of their families and communities.



We will be offering a Training for CARING FOR THE WHOLE PERSON INITIATIVE In the Spring possibly via Zoom.

Date, time and place to be determined.

Any questions, please call Sister Madeline 760-945-8040