



**God's love knows no barriers. St. Pascal's...where all people matter.**

Welcome! We hope you enjoy your time with us. Whether you are just visiting or looking for a parish home, it's great to have you with us. Whatever your life circumstances, wherever you have been or whatever has happened in your life, you are welcome here.

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OCTOBER 16, 2022 | TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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## OUR STAFF

### Pastor

Fr. John Mitchell | ext 125  
john.mitchell@stpascals.org

### Deacon

Rev. Mr. Richard Moore  
richard.moore@stpascals.org

### Business Administrator

Theresa Ruttger | ext 130  
theresa.ruttger@stpascals.org

### Director of Facilities and Maintenance

Mike Kelleher | ext 134  
mike.kelleher@stpascals.org

### Pastoral Associate for Music

Sharon Balcom | ext 126  
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Kim Roering | ext 128  
kim.roering@stpascals.org

### Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care

Barb Uschold Anderson | ext 129  
barb.ua@stpascals.org

### Liturgy Assistant

Keri Mader | ext 127  
keri.mader@stpascals.org

### Communications & Office Manager

Thea Munoz | ext 133  
thea.munoz@stpascals.org

### Welcome Desk

Karri Creamer | ext 120  
karri.creamer@stpascals.org

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



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## Mass Times

Saturday 4:30 PM | Sunday 8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL) | Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM; Wednesday 9:30 AM

1757 Conway Street | Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 | 651.774.1585

www.stpascals.org | church@stpascals.org

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**Thank you for all your help and participation in the Fall Festival last weekend.** It was wonderful to gather in person for a meal, watch football on TV, enter the raffles for theme baskets and prizes, shop in the craft room and jewelry boutique—and the kids had a fun time in the Children's Activities Room. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talent and treasure. It was a great day, and I am already looking forward to next year's Fall Festival!

**Tree Trench and Rain Garden Project Update:** This past week, a new blacktop surface was installed on the parking lot area around the tree trench. This area of our parking lot had crumbling blacktop before the project started so it was a nice coincidence that the new tree trench was installed right where we needed new blacktop! Parking spots will be marked with new paint on the blacktop next week. We expect to lose only two or three parking spots as a result of the new tree trench and rain garden. A new black metal fence will be installed on the north end of the parking lot along the Third Street sidewalk. The work crew will start cleaning up the worksite and preparing to remove their equipment. The trees will be planted in the tree boxes next spring along with the plants in the rain garden.

**Mass Attendance Counts in October.** During the first four weeks of October, we are tracking the attendance at our weekend Masses. Here are our totals so far:

2022 Mass Attendance	Saturday 4:30 PM	Sunday 8:45 AM	Sunday 10:30 AM	Total
October 1-2	136	164	120	420
October 8-9	112	135	181	428
October 15-16				
October 22-23				
2022 October Avg	124	150	151	424
2021 October Avg	126	149	129	404

Here are the number of online views of Mass on our parish YouTube channel:

Average Online Views of Mass	Saturday 4:30 PM	Sunday 10:30 AM	Total
October 8-9, 2022	77	36	113
October 1-2, 2022	45	17	62
2020 October	157	111	268
2021 October	94	66	160

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for October 2022: *For a Church open to everyone.*** We pray for the Church; ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, may the Church be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## Young At Heart Mass & Luncheon—Thursday October 27 at 11:00 AM

Attention Men and Women 55-plus! Fr. John will celebrate the Eucharist with us at 11:00, followed by a short meeting. Then we will enjoy homemade lasagna with all the trimmings catered by Tinucci's. Our entertainment will be Kent Appeldoorn, solo artist/vocalist—we enjoyed his superb crowd-pleasing personality during several of our Young at Heart gatherings in past years. We ask a \$13.00 donation to help defray expenses, payable on the day of the meeting. To RSVP, please contact Betty Hensel at [bjhensel@comcast.net](mailto:bjhensel@comcast.net) or 651.714.8958 or call Linda Spence at 651.730.9061. We look forward to being together again!

## WE CARE CAMPAIGN

On the weekend of October 29 - 30, 2022, St. Pascal's parish will gather the loose change and bills from the collection and donate them to the Social Justice and Caring Committee's next *We Care Campaign*. The three options chosen by the committee for its fall campaign are:

### Option 1: *Community Ambassadors Initiative*

The Community Ambassadors Initiative is a program through the St. Paul Police Department that aims to reach out to youth by building relationships with them and helping them connect with services, find jobs, stay safe, etc.

### Option 2: *Harriet Tubman Center East*

The Harriet Tubman Center East is an organization located in Maplewood that assists women, children and families struggling with relationship violence, mental health issues and substance abuse. It provides community education, counseling, elder care resources, legal services, safe shelter and youth programming while guiding and sustaining individuals and families on the journey to healing and restoration.

### Option 3: *Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates*

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates work to advocate, educate and take action to promote social justice in such areas as anti-racism, care for creation, the death penalty, human trafficking, immigration, respect for life, etc.

We encourage you to consider making a personal contribution as well, using the envelope provided in the packet of envelopes sent by the parish or those found on the tables located near the entrances to the church. If you prefer to give to one or more of these charities, please indicate this on the envelope and your contributions will be distributed as requested. Any unmarked contributions will be divided equally among the three options. Thank you for your generosity.

## Pumpkin Bingo!

*Friday, October 21 at 6:30 PM in Brioschi Hall*  
Gather family and friends for a fun FREE evening of Bingo with pumpkin and fall themed prizes. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Come in a family-friendly costume for the costume contest with child and adult winners! Walk-ins welcome but reservations preferred. RSVP link to Sign Up Genius is at [stpascals.org](http://stpascals.org) or call the parish office at 651.774.1585. *Sponsored by the Parish Life & Activities Committee*

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

### Middle School Overnight Trip to Camp St. Croix

The 5th through 8th grade students had a wonderful time earlier this week at Camp St. Croix in Hudson. This is the second year that we have been able to offer this trip to our students. Some of the highlights from the trip were the rock-climbing wall, playing team games, orienteering, learning about wolves, and sleeping overnight in cabins. The middle school is extremely grateful to the St. Pascal Baylon Men's Club for sponsoring the trip and helping to cover the fees for every student to be able to attend. It was a special two days and would not have been possible without the Men's Club's support. Please check out our social media pages for pictures from the trip at [stpascalschool.org/](http://stpascalschool.org/).

### St. Pascal's Women's Club 2022 Poinsettias (and more) Fundraiser

Check out the Gertens poinsettias, cyclamens, succulent and centerpiece. Gertens Plant Cards make great Christmas gifts! (Directions to purchase a gift for the residents at the Marian Center is below.)

To place your order online, go to [gertensfundraising.com](http://gertensfundraising.com) and enter our Store ID# 447. *Some items have limited quantities and sell out.* Our fundraiser site closes on October 20 at 10:00 PM. **No orders can be accepted after that.**

If you want to order a poinsettia or two for the residents of the Marian Center to brighten their holiday, place your order online as usual then send an email to [ellenoaeling@gmail.com](mailto:ellenoaeling@gmail.com) saying that you want your order (or part of your order) to go to the Marian Center.

Buying online is convenient—but if you want assistance, Women's Club members will be available **this weekend** to help after all Masses.

Flowers and cards will be available for pick up on November 19-20 at all Masses. For questions or assistance, please contact Ellen Aeling at 651.307.8241.

### Men's Club Fall Booya THIS WEEKEND

*Sunday, October 16 from 10:00 AM until gone. Come early, it goes fast!*

*Drive-thru sales only at the Conway Street horseshoe.*

No personal containers. A 48 oz. container is \$18.00. Cash, check or card.

If you purchased pre-sale tickets, you may pick up your booya on October 16 beginning at 10:00 AM near the Founders Room. **To pick up inside, you must have pre-ordered.**

The drive-thru event is open to the public and anyone who did not pre-order their booya.

*Proceeds go towards requested K-8 phy-ed equipment/supplies for St. Pascal Regional Catholic School and other school/parish items.*

## — SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

### October Collection:

#### Merrick Community Services

Merrick Community Services supports individuals and families to navigate life transitions, find health and stability, and promotes independence. For a full list of items needed, see the list on the donation closet door or visit [stpascals.org/social-justice-and-caring-committee](http://stpascals.org/social-justice-and-caring-committee).

### Faith in Action: Called to be Keepers of God's Creation

The beautiful fall colors and crisper temperatures call us outside, perhaps for a walk in the woods or a park. As we walk and observe all that is to be seen, are we filled with a sense of wonder, awe and respect for the natural world around us? As Creation keepers, how are we called to be caretakers? Some put their faith into action by moving toward a more plant-based diet out of respect for living animals, to combat global warming and to conserve water resources. According to *Earthbeat*, "Dietary dependence on animal agriculture is one of the leading contributors to climate change and environmental degradation." One doesn't have to become a vegetarian. Try healthy, meatless recipes one or two days per week. You may find the change enjoyable and good for the earth.

### St. Pascal's-Merrick Food Distribution

*Monday, October 24 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM*

Curbside pickup in the main church parking lot (Third & Flandrau Streets). Monthly food distributions are on the 4th Monday of the month. *No residency or parish membership requirements.*

Thank you to all of our volunteers and to the St. Pascal's parish community. You have supported us with recycled paper and plastic grocery bags, cloth bags (for folks who have come on foot to get their food), and prayers. We are happy to continue to take the bags and are grateful for your prayerful support.

Contact [mlweyandt@mac.com](mailto:mlweyandt@mac.com) if you are interested in joining our team to pack the food or distribute the bags at Door 4.

## C O N T A C T U S

### Parish Office

Phone 651.774.1585  
Email [church@stpascals.org](mailto:church@stpascals.org)

*For after-hours pastoral emergency (death, dying or anointing), call 651.774.1585 and dial 1.*

### Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
*Holidays as announced*

### St. Pascal Regional Catholic School

Phone 651.776.0092  
Email [icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org](mailto:icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org)

### School Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Parish Councils

#### Parish Pastoral Council

Meetings 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM  
*Ann Karner, Chair*

#### Parish Finance Council

Meetings 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM  
*Mike Aeling, Chair*

### Sacramental Information

#### Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:45-4:15 PM  
or contact Fr. John in the parish office  
*Communal celebrations as announced*

#### Baptism

One pre-baptismal session is required.  
To register for a pre-baptismal session or to schedule a celebration, call the parish office.

#### Marriage

Arrangements must be made with the pastor at least six months in advance of the desired date.

### Parish Prayer Line

8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004  
Mary Butler-Levine

4:00 - 6:00 PM 651.774.3248  
Pat Kackman

### Parish Communication

#### Bulletin Notices

Due 5:00 PM Monday  
[thea.munoz@stpascals.org](mailto:thea.munoz@stpascals.org)

#### Mass Announcements

Due 12:00 PM Tuesday  
[keri.mader@stpascals.org](mailto:keri.mader@stpascals.org)

Like, follow & share us on Facebook:  
*St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church*

## Mass Times & Intentions

## Readings October 16, 2022

### Tuesday, October 18

8:00 AM Joseph Robinette

### Wednesday, October 19

9:30 AM + Fr. David Smith

### Thursday, October 20

8:00 AM + Stephen Flottmeyer

### Friday, October 21

8:00 AM + Jim Stach

### Saturday, October 22

*Anointing Weekend*

4:30 PM + Ronald & Henrietta Stuhl

### Sunday, October 23

*Anointing Weekend*

8:45 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM + Fr. Mike Byron

### Sunday:

Ex 17:8-13

Ps 121:1-8

2 Tm 3:14—4:2

Lk 18:1-8

### Monday:

Eph 2:1-10

Ps 100:1b-5

Lk 12:13-21

### Tuesday:

2 Tm 4:10-17b

Ps 145:10-13, 17-18

Lk 10:1-9

### Wednesday:

Eph 3:2-12

(Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4b-6

Lk 12:39-48

### Thursday:

Eph 3:14-21

Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19

Lk 12:49-53

### Friday:

Eph 4:1-6

Ps 24:1-6

Lk 12:54-59

### Saturday:

Eph 4:7-16

Ps 122:1-5

Lk 13:1-9

### Next Sunday:

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18

Ps 34:2-3, 17-19, 23

2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18

Lk 18:9-14

## Use Your Smartphone to Make a Donation to St. Pascal's!

1. Scan this QR code with your phone.
2. Open the secure link and follow the prompts.
3. Thank you!



## Stewardship of Giving

*Financials for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023*

### August 2022

#### Sunday Giving

Giving	\$ 42,200.88	YTD Giving	\$ 95,647.73
Budgeted	\$ <u>69,458.30</u>	YTD Budgeted	\$ <u>138,916.64</u>
Deficit	\$ -27,257.42	YTD Deficit	\$ -43,268.91

#### Mortgage Reduction (as of 08.31.2022)

Loan Balance:	\$ 2,982,378.11
Principal:	\$ 12,248.02
Interest:	\$ <u>10,213.03</u>
Monthly Payment	\$ 22,461.05
YTD Collected Donations	\$ 36,284.07
YTD Payment:	\$ <u>44,922.10</u>
Deficit	\$ -8,638.03

Reserve Account Balance: \$ 214,196.02

# of payments from Reserve: 10

**Thank you for your support!**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday, October 16

After Masses Veteran's Dinner Ticket Sales: Gathering Space  
After Masses Women's Club Poinsettia Order asst.: Brioschi Hall  
10:00am Men's Club Booya Pick-up: Founders Room  
10:00am Men's Club Booya Drive-thru: Horseshoe  
12:00pm Men's Club Booya cleanup: Campus  
12:00pm Confirmation II: Staff Lounge

### Monday, October 17

6:30pm JustFaith: Zoom  
7:00pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall

### Tuesday, October 18

8:45am Bible Study: Parish Conference Room  
6:30pm Beacon Team Meeting: Zoom  
6:30pm Bible Study: Parish Conference Room

### Wednesday, October 19

9:00am Rosary: Church  
9:30am School Mass: Church  
6:30pm Choir: Church  
6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room

### Thursday, October 20

9:30am Bible Study: Parish Conference Room  
6:00pm Spirit Song: Church  
6:00pm Cub Scouts: Old Church

### Friday, October 21

6:30pm Pumpkin Bingo: Brioschi Hall

### Saturday, October 22—Anointing Weekend

After Mass Veteran's Dinner Ticket Sales: Gathering Space

### Sunday, October 23—Anointing Weekend

After Masses Veteran's Dinner Ticket Sales: Gathering Space

## Sacrament of Anointing—Weekend of October 22 & 23

Anyone who is experiencing something that places your health at risk—whether physical, mental, or spiritual—is invited to celebrate this sacrament during our community liturgy at all weekend Masses. For prayer and support, please contact Barb Uschold Anderson at 651.432.4959.

## Veterans Day Prayer Service & Ceremonial Dinner

*Friday, November 11—Prayer Service at 5:30 PM; dinner to follow*  
Prayer Service is free to anyone—all are welcome. Dinner is immediately following. Dinner tickets are available for sale after any weekend Mass or by contacting one of the chairs below. Dinner includes salad, main meal, beverage (punch, beer, wine) and dessert.

**Dinner:** All Veterans are free. If you haven't received a voucher in the mail, please see us at the table in the Gathering Space and we will get you a ticket.

Non-Veteran tickets cost \$15. All are welcome, you do not need to be a Veteran or be with a Veteran to enjoy this event.

**Sponsor Cards:** Please consider sponsoring this event. We have options for general sponsors as well as options to sponsor in memory or in honor of someone. Sponsor Cards cost \$10.00

**Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteers for various duties. Please see us at the table in the Gathering Space or contact Vicky Westenhofer at 651.249.8010.

**Keynote Speaker:** We would like to have a Veteran from our community talk about their service for 10-15 minutes. Please let us know if this interests you.

**Questions:** Please contact Katee Girling at 651.245.3638.



## Raffle

Thousands of Sweepstakes tickets were sold, generating \$19,592 in profit!

## Pie Shop

A record number of delicious pies were donated, and they were all sold, allowing the Pie Shop to make \$846, a new record!

## Chicken Dinner

We served 240 Chicken Dinners to parishioners and their guests, and thanks to a generous donor who covered the cost of the meals, our profit was \$2738!

*And thanks to Culvers Restaurant at Sun Ray for donating vanilla frozen custard for all the kids.*

## Craft Room

Thanks to beautiful contributions from new and returning crafters and the abundance of shoppers, the Craft Room made \$728 – also a new record!

## Kid's

### Activities

More than 40 kids had fun with the FREE activities in the Nursery.

*A special thanks to Kathy Winters, Brianna Flannigan and Regina Head who made it happen!*

## Theme Baskets


We had a record 77 baskets to choose from! More than 3500 Theme Basket tickets were sold, and thanks to the many generous contributors to the donation tree, we were able to share \$220 in gift cards with the next Friends and Family fundraiser.

*NOTE: If you won a Theme Basket, and don't have a need for the basket itself, bring it to the Donation Closet and we will use it next year*

## Jewelry

Hundreds of beautiful baubles found new homes, and we made \$660!

**Total Profit**  
**\$27,978**



*What a wonderful,  
successful Fall  
Festival it was! It  
was really good to  
be together again!*

# **St. Pascal Baylon Fall Festival**

Thanks to everyone who:

- ❖ Bought or sold a Sweepstakes Raffle Ticket
- ❖ Came for or took home a delicious chicken dinner
- ❖ Created, donated to or took a chance on winning a unique Theme Basket
- ❖ Donated a pie, or bought a delicious slice of one
- ❖ Made or bought a handmade craft item or a piece of vintage jewelry

*Thanks to all the volunteers who served dinner, or cleaned up after it,  
who sold pie or tickets or crafts or jewelry or who played with the kids.  
Our small but mighty committee couldn't have pulled it off without you!*

October 16, 2022



## **A Road Map for 2024: Strategic Plan for the Church of St. Pascal Baylon, St. Paul, MN**

**Background:** During 2021-22, the Parish Pastoral Council updated the Strategic Plan that was created by the Parish Council in 2016 and then updated in 2020. The title of the updated Strategic Plan is “A Road Map for 2024”.

**What’s next?** In the coming weeks, a series of bulletin inserts will present the focus areas of the Strategic Plan. The full 10-page document can be found the kiosk in the Gathering Space and also on the Parish website at [stpascals.org/parish-news](http://stpascals.org/parish-news).

**What are we asking you to do?** Please read the Strategic Plan and discuss it with other parishioners and the committees where you serve in our parish. We ask our parish committees and staff members to read the Plan and discuss ways it can be incorporated into their ministry areas.

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### **The 8 Focus Areas of A Road Map for 2024**

Worship and Spirituality; 2. Hospitality and Community-Building; 3. Faith Formation; 4. Pastoral Care; **5. Stewardship**; 6. Social Justice and Caring; 7. Communication; 8. Facilities and Maintenance

**Stewardship:** To help parishioners be generous stewards who are eager to share their time, talent, and treasure in service to the parish and larger community as a grateful response to God’s blessings.

#### **Goals:**

- Cultivate a spirit of regular giving and personal ownership for our parish through various communications that inform and educate about our shared responsibility for active stewardship.
- Develop a system for recruiting and training volunteers for ministerial opportunities.
- Advertise needs and recruit by writing accurate descriptions of service opportunities (“jobs”), including term expectations.
- Provide a ‘welcome packet’ for parishioners with descriptions of service opportunities and contact information; update/revise ‘welcome packet’ at least annually.
- Extend personal invitations, especially to new parishioners and those currently not involved.
- Develop a process for matching volunteers’ talents with ministry expectations and needs.
- Develop a system for following up on parishioners’ offers to serve and preparing them for ministry.
- Commit the parish to the responsible stewardship of its resources:
  - Continue to identify various sources of income for the parish, in addition to ongoing parishioner contributions.
  - Prioritize ministries/staff/finances.

**Leadership:** Pastor; Volunteer Coordinator; ministry coordinators/lead volunteer ministers; Business Administrator; Parish Pastoral Council; Finance Council.

**Next week’s bulletin insert: Focus Area 6: Social Justice and Caring**

## ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVES: PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Rosa\* knew from experience the difficulties and expenses of watching a loved one die. She was totally devoted to her husband as he suffered and died from cancer eight years earlier. The idea of high medical bills, “tubes” and pain upset her, and even though she had not viewed her husband as a burden, she feared being one to her family.

Then, Rosa was hospitalized with a terrible urinary tract infection which made her dehydrated, weak and confused. Her daughter Teresa had been appointed as her health care agent. Teresa met with the medical staff, who helped her understand that the proposed treatments would not cause an undue burden to her mother. In fact, they would be temporary and appropriate care in Rosa’s situation. Teresa was grateful that the medications, nutrition and hydration that Rosa was given, all through “tubes,” cured her infection. Rosa is now as active as she has ever been and realizes that there are certain situations that can’t be anticipated when illness comes. It’s best not to refuse future care that may turn out to be very welcome.

Human life is good and to be protected. All medical decisions ought to reflect this core belief. Yet black-and-white answers to our questions about end-of-life issues are not always possible, and it can be very difficult to know how to make medical decisions. Each and every human person is distinct and unrepeatable, and each medical situation may be unique. In each set of circumstances we need to judge whether a given treatment will provide real benefit to the patient, without causing harm or other burdens that are out of proportion to the good being done.

We should each be prepared for those difficult situations when medical decisions must be made. We can safeguard our Catholic values by appointing a responsible and trustworthy person now to make decisions for us, in the event that

we are incapable of doing so, either physically or mentally. It is important to be aware of the different legal or medical documents that are available or are often used to



define a patient’s care. Depending on how they are crafted, some documents can be counter to Catholic morality and more harmful than we might realize.

The safest option is to designate a health care agent who not only understands our Catholic values but also shares them and can apply them to current situations and respond to questions as they arise. This person, usually a close family member or friend, acts as a proxy decision maker if the patient is not able to make his or her own decisions. In choosing an agent or proxy, a person can declare in writing that all treatment and care decisions made on their behalf must be consistent with and not contradict the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

Less flexible is a living will, which simply lists treatment options or care that the patient wishes to accept or reject. No matter how well-crafted, such a document can never predict all the possible problems that may occur at a later time or anticipate all future treatment options. A living will can be misinterpreted by medical providers who might not understand the patient’s wishes.

Some states and healthcare systems have been implementing a troubling document known as a “Physician Order for Life- Sustaining Treatment,” also called by a confusing array of acronyms (POLST, MOST, MOLST, or POST). The POLST document is filled out by a doctor



or other medical professional to define treatments to be withheld or administered in a future situation. It has been criticized for placing more power in the hands of physicians than in patients' hands. Indeed, in some cases the patient need not even sign the document.



Once signed by the physician, it becomes a doctor's order to other medical

staff, and may override the patient's own past advance directives and even the patient's appointment of a health care agent. It may be applied to patients who are not in a terminal situation and who might only need antibiotics, nutrition and hydration, or other proportionate care. Yet a POLST document signed months or years before, stating that the patient should not receive antibiotics, could still be followed even if the patient, like Rosa, faced a simple urinary tract infection which is easily cleared up by antibiotics.

Of course there are times when failing health is not so easily remedied as in Rosa's case. In some situations, procedures are appropriately refused. One should consider the benefits and burdens of a prospective procedure and conscientiously judge whether or not to accept it. However, because of the inherent dignity of the person and our moral obligation to protect each human life, our Church teaches that we should take reasonable steps to preserve life and should never withhold or administer treatment with the intention of ending the life of the person.

It is incredibly difficult to see someone we love suffering, and it is natural for us to want to alleviate their hardship. Additionally, we live in a culture that places value on productivity and prefers to get rid of what is deemed useless. Some people therefore support measures that, at

first, might seem like a compassionate response, but in fact are not. Advocates for legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia promote the illusion that we can "help" those in need by killing them or assisting them in killing themselves. However, this response ignores the person's true needs and does not respect their dignity. Each person deserves real solutions and support when facing physical, emotional and spiritual challenges. Cutting someone's life short before their time deprives them of unknown opportunities for God's grace to work in their life.

God's infinite love for each one of us helps us to grasp our identity and our worth. The recognition of this dignity leads us to respect and protect each person's life, including our own, and ought to be at the core of whatever medical decisions we make. Let us place our trust in the Lord and ask for his continuous guidance, for these decisions and for all those we face in our lives.

*\*The story of Rosa and Teresa (their names are changed for their privacy) is just one example of how important it is to reflect in advance on how we would want decisions made on our behalf if we cannot speak for ourselves. To find out what pastoral and educational resources may be available locally, contact your diocesan pro-life office.*



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington, DC 20017-1194  
Tel: (202) 541-3070 • Fax: (202) 541-3054  
Website: [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife)

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