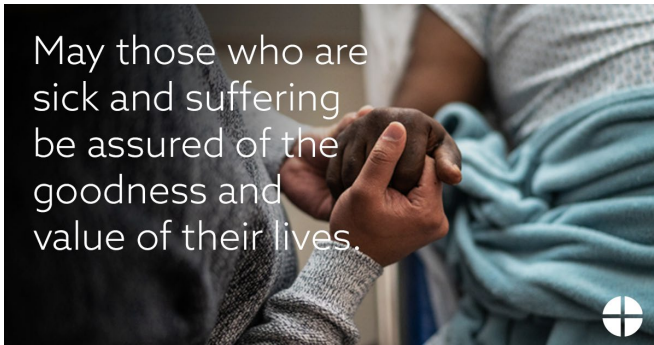


## INTERCEDE



May those who are sick and suffering be assured of the goodness and value of their lives.

## PRAY

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

## REFLECT

As the Church, we recognize that suicide is a tragedy that ends one life and devastates the loved ones left behind. Those who promote physician-assisted suicide try to draw a distinction between those with a mental illness who want to end their lives and those with a terminal illness who express the same wish. This is a dangerously false distinction with far-reaching consequences.

Assisted suicide abandons vulnerable individuals at the moment when they are most in need of our love, care, and support. Even among terminally ill patients, a request to die is nearly always a cry for help, indicating that some aspect of their condition has not been adequately attended to. Those requesting to end their lives typically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they tragically believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, "Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?"

Society's acceptance of assisted suicide sends the false message that under especially difficult circumstances some lives are not worth living. Every suicide is tragic, no matter the circumstances. Nothing diminishes the sanctity of a person's life, or the obligation to protect and care for it. We don't discourage suicide in our society by assisting suicide. We are called to affirm the dignity of human life in all stages and circumstances. Those who are suffering need to be assured of the goodness and value of their lives and provided with authentic care and support.

*Reflection adapted from "Every Suicide is Tragic" ([uscgb.org/every-suicide-tragic](https://uscgb.org/every-suicide-tragic)).*

## ACT *(choose one)*

- Offer the prayer, "Every Life is Worth Living" for this month's intention ([uscgb.org/every-life-worth-living](https://uscgb.org/every-life-worth-living)).
- Do an act of kindness for someone today.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

## ONE STEP FURTHER

Learn more about the stark differences between assisted suicide and authentic end-of-life care in accord with human dignity in "Killing the Pain, Not the Patient: Palliative Care vs. Assisted Suicide": [bit.ly/killing-pain-not-patient](https://bit.ly/killing-pain-not-patient).

