



Feb. 23, 2017

PHA Monthly
Newsletter for the Pro-Life Healthcare Alliance
Thirty-eighth Edition

Welcome to the thirty-eighth edition of PHA Monthly, the e-newsletter for the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance. This newsletter provides another opportunity for the PHA to share pro-life information about current healthcare issues, PHA events, contributions from members and other relevant information.

Please share your ideas and suggestions with us.

Visit our website at www.prolifehealthcare.org for more information.

PRO-LIFE HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE MISSION STATEMENT

Promoting and developing concrete "pro-life healthcare"* alternatives and advocating for those facing the grave consequences of healthcare rationing and unethical practices, especially those at risk of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

*"Pro-life healthcare" means medical care in which the life and safety of each person comes first, where each person receives medical care across their lifespan based on their need for care, regardless of their abilities or perceived "quality of life."

From The Editor's Desk

By Julie Grimstad



On Saturday, March 4, 2017, an important conference - DIGNITY AT THE END OF LIFE: FROM SUFFERING TO HOPE -- will be held near Madison, Wisconsin. (See the information below.)

Sponsored by Human Life Alliance and Wisconsin Catholic Medical Guilds, it will feature seven presenters sharing our expertise and personal experiences. I am overjoyed to have the opportunity to share the stage with six extraordinary men and women.

My presentation will focus mainly on patient advocacy, but will also introduce the Pro-life Healthcare Alliance's mission, which encompasses protecting patients who are at risk of euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Right now, in this country, we are in a pitched battle to prevent the spread of the legalization of assisted suicide. There are six jurisdictions in the U.S. (Washington, D.C. being the most recent) that permit doctors to write lethal prescriptions for suicidal patients. Proponents describe assisted suicide as "death with dignity." But true death with dignity means facing death with courage, and caring for the dying by being with them and assuring them that they are worthy of our tender attention. We must unwaveringly reject treating human beings as mere animals by killing them when they are ill or near death. The Pro-life Healthcare Alliance is working to **prevent medical care from being warped into veterinary care.**

I'm involved in two related volunteer outreach programs: Patient Advocacy and Befrienders. Both are designed to alleviate loneliness and protect people who are medically fragile (either physically or mentally), devalued or abandoned by providing them with volunteer advocates and friends. Our Patient Advocacy motto is "In the face of suffering, unleash love." Unconditional, selfless love is the only moral solution to the problem of human suffering.

The absence of selfless love can make us monsters who deem certain human beings to be "unworthy of life," and view people through the lens of utilitarianism. Utilitarians measure the value of a person's life based on usefulness, productivity, and even whether or not the person is considered convenient or worth the cost of care.

On the other hand, exercising selfless love makes us more fully human--that is, more like the image of God in which we were created.

Come to the conference on Dignity at the End of Life, not only to discover how to serve others as Patient Advocates and Befrienders, but also to learn from people who are "in the trenches" every day fighting to defend the dignity of human life and nurture hope in the face of suffering.

We, sponsors and speakers, hope to see you there!

Human Life Alliance is excited to announce:

APPLICATION FOR
CME CEU
APPROVED

HUMAN LIFE ALLIANCE & WISCONSIN CATHOLIC MEDICAL GUILDS PRESENT

**DIGNITY AT THE END OF LIFE
FROM SUFFERING
TO HOPE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017
WYNDHAM GARDEN**

**FITCHBURG, WI
NEAR MADISON, WI
8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

[Dignity at the End Of Life: From Suffering to Hope](https://www.humanlife.org/product/dignity-life/) [https://www.humanlife.org/product/dignity-life/] to be held Saturday, March 4, 2017 in Fitchburg, Wisconsin (near Madison). This full-day conference boasts a line-up of exceptional speakers covering a wide range of end-of-life topics.

Things have changed dramatically within our health care system. To protect yourself and your loved ones, you need to be informed. The information you receive at this conference may be life-saving and it will certainly be life-affirming.

Those that attend will hear talks on perinatal hospice, grief, compassion, hope, patient advocacy and new pathways to care by expert speakers.

Both Medical, Social Worker and Nursing continuing education credits have been approved for this conference!

White Mass immediately following conference with Bishop Morlino

Register here! <https://www.humanlife.org/product/dignity-life/>

Please join us and could you help us spread the word?

Meet the Conference Speakers

Julie Grimstad, LPN

Founder & Executive Director of Life is Worth Living



PATIENT ADVOCATES (AND BEFRIENDERS) ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED

Julie is executive director of Life is Worth Living, Inc., past chair of Pro-life Healthcare Alliance and advisor to Human Life Alliance. She is a founder and coordinator of St. John's Befrienders, a ministry to nursing home residents and homebound elderly. A nationally known speaker and writer, Julie addresses all aspects of medical decision-making and patient advocacy. She has served as a volunteer patient advocate for over 30 years and was director of the Center for the Rights of the Terminally Ill, Inc. Julie is a contributing writer and editor to *Imposed Death: Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*, *Informed: A guide for critical medical decisions*, and the *PHA Monthly* e-newsletter. Her articles have been published in numerous Catholic and pro-life publications as well as elsewhere.

Byron C. Calhoun, MD, FACOG, FACS, FASAM, MBA

Professor & Vice-Chair, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, West Virginia University, Charleston, WV



PERINATAL HOSPICE; WHAT IT MEANS TO DO NO HARM-MEDICAL ETHICS AND ANOMALOUS PREGNANCIES

Dr. Byron C. Calhoun, MD, FACOG, FACS, FASAM, MBA is a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and graduated from the University of Iowa Medical School with an MD. Dr. Calhoun completed his residency in OB/GYN at the University of Missouri-Columbia and finished a Fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Calhoun is a diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology with board certification in general Obstetrics and Gynecology and in the sub-specialty of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He is also board certified in Addictions Medicine.

He has authored 85 peer review articles in the obstetric and gynecologic literature, presented over 100 scientific papers, and has published numerous articles on medical aspects of obstetrics and gynecology. Dr.

Calhoun serves as Professor and Vice-Chair in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at West Virginia University-Charleston. Dr. Calhoun and his wife, Kathryn, have five children and 2 lovely granddaughters.

Mark Davis Pickup

Pro-Life Speaker



JOURNAL THROUGH GRIEF OF DISEASE TOWARD MEANING: A CASE STUDY

Mark Pickup's life and testimony speak volumes about the profound meaning that can be found in human suffering and limitation, through relationship with Jesus Christ. Mark, who has advanced multiple sclerosis and is wheelchair dependent, will share the story of his journey from despair to hope as he found meaning through his Christian faith. He reminds us that everyone suffering needs the support of a significant community to overcome their fears of pain and powerlessness.

Ramón Luzárraga, PhD

Assistant Professor of Theology and Division Chair of Undergraduate Studies at Benedictine University in Mesa, Arizona



COMPASSION AS ACCOMPANIMENT WITH THOSE WHO SUFFER: A ROMAN CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SUFFERING

Ramón Luzárraga is Assistant Professor of Theology and Division Chair of Undergraduate Studies at Benedictine University in Mesa, Arizona. He holds a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School, and a PhD in systematic theology and ethics from Marquette University. He is a member of the editorial board of *The Journal of Moral Theology*, the only Roman Catholic journal devoted to that subject. He also convened the moral theology group for the Catholic Theological Society of America, the Latino ethics group in the Society of Christian Ethics, a member of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States. He has written articles for references works and book reviews concerning moral and systematic theology.

Cristen Krebs, DNP, ANP-BC

Founder and Executive Director of Catholic Hospice Pittsburgh



HOSPICE CARE IN THE 21st CENTURY

Cristen is the founder and executive director Catholic Hospice, graduated from Robert Morris University's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program and has twenty-five years of end-of-life care experience. After years in the field of oncology and hospice nursing, she became disheartened with the trend of hospices becoming more business oriented than patient focused. Dr. Krebs began the first faith-based, nonprofit hospice program and first free-standing hospice serving residents in Southwest Pennsylvania. Dr. Krebs embraces the prolife health care philosophy and spearheads education for both health care professionals and health care consumers.

Nan & Edward Weber

Founders of Holy Family Ministry Center and Loreto on the Plains



FINDING NEW PATHWAYS TO CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, THE SICK AND TERMINALLY ILL (A STORY OF FAITH IN ACTION-WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE)

Ed and Nan are founders of Loreto on the Plains Personal Care Home (an outreach of the Holy Family Ministry Center) whose mission is to care for those who are sick and terminally ill through respite care, transitional care and end-of-life care. They also educate the laity with the truth about end of life issues. Ed and Nan founded the Holy Family Ministry Center "for the Renewal and the Restoration of the family and Catholic Family Life through the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy."

Ed and Nan are both spiritual directors and Secular Franciscans. They have experience in Marriage Encounter, inner healing prayer and Rachael's Vineyard (a post-abortion healing retreat and prison ministry).

Nan has a BA in Education, taught for four years and homeschooled for 13 years before earning her LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse) at the age of 65. Ed has a BS in Engineering and is a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant). Ed and Nan have ten daughters, 45 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

UNEXPECTED RECOVERY

In order to inspire hope, we periodically introduce you to people who have survived or recovered when, supposedly, there was "no hope." In the amazing case highlighted here, physicians' refusal to give up on a "clinically dead" patient produced a happy ending.

Australian Vanessa Tanasio, a 41-year-old mother of two, was rushed to the hospital after a major heart attack. Declared clinically dead soon after arrival at Melbourne's Monash Heart Hospital, doctors kept blood flowing to her brain with the aid of a machine while they worked to unblock vital arteries and return her heart to a normal rhythm. After 42 minutes with no pulse, Vanessa was revived. The hospital described her survival as "astonishing." Interviewed while still in the hospital, Vanessa said, "I'm feeling excellent. For someone who has been dead for nearly an hour of this week, I am feeling tremendously well." (Miracle patient? Clinically dead woman revived after 42 minutes," *News.com.au*, August 19, 2013)

TAKE ACTION

In spite of heroic and persistent efforts made by pro-life organizations and individuals, the stark reality is that the healthcare system itself has become an ever-increasing threat to the well-being and lives of the unborn, the young, the old and the disabled and ailing of any age. The PHA is dedicated to renewing reverence for life within healthcare. For some excellent information about current and historical issues regarding abortion, contraception, euthanasia, stealth euthanasia, hospice, advance directives and other pertinent topics, please check out these resources.

[Texas Right to Life](https://www.texasrighttolife.com/) <https://www.texasrighttolife.com/>

[Pro-life Healthcare Alliance](http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/) <http://www.prolifehealthcare.org/>

[Hospice Patient's Alliance](http://www.hospicepatients.org/) <http://www.hospicepatients.org/>

[Euthanasia Prevention Coalition](http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/) <http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/>

[Patient's Rights Council](http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/) <http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/>

[Prenatal Partners for Life](http://www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org/) <http://www.prenatalpartnersforlife.org/>

[Pro Life Wisconsin](https://www.prolifewi.org/) <https://www.prolifewi.org/>

[American Life League](http://www.all.org/) <http://www.all.org/>

[**Read Stealth Euthanasia: Health Care Tyranny in America by Ron Panzer**](http://www.hospicepatients.org/this-thing-called-hospice.html)

<http://www.hospicepatients.org/this-thing-called-hospice.html>

The Pro-life Healthcare Alliance needs your support. The suggested PHA membership donation is \$25 per year. Please renew your membership or join today. Be a part of this vitally important work and help the PHA continue and grow.

Pray for renewal of reverence for life. In particular we have designated Thursday as a special day of prayer for the mission of the PHA.

STAY CONNECTED



Pro-life Healthcare Alliance

a program of [*Human Life Alliance*](#)
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