

Church of the Sacred Heart



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Together we foster a welcoming spirit of unity while honoring our diversity which leads to a graced harmony among us since Christ is the center of all we are and do.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ FEBRUARY 17, 2019 YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN

Today's Gospel from Luke is the Sermon on the Plain with the Beatitudes, what we usually think of as the Sermon on the Mount. It seems as though Jesus is congratulating those who would have been considered unfortunate, doesn't it? The Beatitude statements overturn the concept of "fortunate" in Jesus' time, naming those who are poor, hungry, mourning, or marginalized as those who should rejoice. Jesus continues with prophetic and startling "Woe to you!" statements, directed to those usually thought of as blessed. Heavenly reward is not a privilege of the rich and comfortable but a blessing for all who trust in God, whose reward will be great in heaven.

WHOM DO YOU TRUST?

The first reading and the psalm take a somewhat different focus: trust in God, not people or things of this world. One who trusts in God is fortunate, like a plant that produces good fruit, sustained by living waters and currents of grace. "Not so the wicked," who wither and vanish, blowing away like the illusions of their self-absorption. Paul, in the second reading, confronts members of the early Christian community of Corinth who were doubting, or devaluing, belief in Jesus' resurrection and the general resurrection of the dead. Depending on the material world in their spiritual pride, they believed that their righteousness was something they had achieved on their own. They felt self-sufficient, "rich," not in need of the ongoing saving power of Christ's resurrection that completes the sacrifice of Good Friday through Easter, which is our true blessing. So, congratulations! Acknowledging our need for God, we are rich in the Kingdom love of our Father. Our hunger is satisfied by the sustaining nourishment of the Spirit. Our weeping is "turned into dancing" knowing that Jesus is with us in our sorrows, in fact knew them when he walked upon earth. Reasons enough for us to rejoice, always, even when people treat us badly. God's reward to us is the Kingdom, now and always.

PRIESTS

Very Rev. Robert W. Holtz, V.F.,
Pastor, ext. 11
Rev. Roberto Ignacio, Assistant, ext. 21
Rev. Richard Gross, S.J., Weekend
Assistant

DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Robert Bednarek
Rev. Mr. Joseph Donadieu
Rev. Mr. Kenneth Heilig
Rev. Mr. Michael Stinsman
All Deacons — ext. 10

PARISH OFFICE

103 Fourth St. Riverton, NJ 08077
856-829-0090 • **856-829-2087** Fax
Leslie Crofton, Secretary, ext. 10
Joanne Moore, Secretary, ext. 24

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

102 Fourth Street - Family Center
856-829-1848 • **856-829-2087** Fax
Patricia Hutchinson, Director
Joanne Moore, Secretary

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

856-829-1836
Fran Stinsman

LITURGICAL MUSIC MINISTRIES

856-786-5380
Susan Barnett, Associate

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

856-829-0090
Scott Perry, Business & Facilities
Director, ext. 14
John Scouler
Donna Casey

Web Site: www.shcriverton.org

E-mail: sacredheartriverton@comcast.net



**SACRED HEART CHURCH
PARISH INFORMATION**

PARISH OFFICE

103 Fourth Street, Riverton, NJ 08077-1205

Monday through Friday

8:30 am — 12:00 noon & 1:00 pm — 4:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Family Center, 102 Fourth Street, Riverton, NJ 08077-1206

Tuesday through Friday

12:30 pm — 4:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays

3:30 pm — 4:15 pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEW PARISHIONERS

Are always welcome, please register at the parish office.

MOVING?

Please notify us if you are moving out of the parish or changing your address or telephone number.

BAPTISMS

Please call the rectory as soon as possible to make arrangements. Parish registration must be confirmed and eligibility certificates for Catholic Godparents must be presented. Godparent and sponsor certificates may be obtained by those who have received all Sacraments in the Catholic Church. **CALL JOANNE MOORE AT 829-0090 x 24.**

MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made at the rectory at least **ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE.** Please contact us to receive guidelines for the celebration of marriage.



**PLEASE PRAY
FOR OUR DEARLY DEPARTED
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Bob Salamon, Theresa Scafidi, Margaret Downey, Frances Wallace, Millie Corr, Marion Massara, Edward Lynn, Anna Netzko, Thomas Colella, Thomas Reinhart, Madeleine Koszyk, Robert Bauer, Robert Clauss, Francis O'Brien, David Stahl, William McMullen III, Loretta Sommer, Lynne Turley, Eleanor Mortiz, Mildred Dyer, Mia Mobertz, Shirley Siemien, Martin 'Chuck' Mufalli, Ann Marie McCarty, Esther Lane, John Paul Berkley, Kevin White, Robert Thomson, Virginia Evers, John Wallace, Judy Keesler, Robert Smith, Sarah Collazo, Eleanor Conway, Kenneth E. Smith, John Williams Sr, Mary Jane Angeli, Thomas Laverty, Michael O'Connor, Margaret Strenski, John Wisotzkey, Anthony Colkers, William McMahan, Francis Zeisweiss, Nicolette Russo, Charlyne McGill, Mary Owens, Russ Lucas, Gladys Sauls, Joseph DeStasio, Kim Dorety, Frances Miersch, Patricia Weick, Albert Romer, Stephanie Grady, John Schwartz, Joanne Brady, Joseph & Kathleen Creighton, Bess Cascio, Terre Walsh, Dillan Hardt, Bishop John M. Smith, Maryann Tillger, Daniel DeFrank, Regina Huber, Mary Monsulick, Jean Costello, Lillian Zamichieli, Michael Kaelin, Kenneth Carn, Alice Clauss, Dorothy Augustsyn, Darryl Tocco, Fran Murphy, Francis McCooley, Maria Lopez, Joanne Powell, Adele Bendig, Angela Tursi, Ann Harmon, William Martens, Liana Raday & Joseph Lattore



Monday, February 18, 2019

8:00 am **John Paul McFadden**
r/o Rich Rickus & Family

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

8:00 am **Fran Wallace**
r/o The Wallace Family
Maureen Deegan
r/o Her Family
Bill & Edie Hill
r/o Terri Tubic

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

8:00 am **Rosemary Martens**
r/o Her Family
Darryl Tocco
r/o His Family
Fr. Michael Waites
r/o Joan Schindwein

Thursday, February 21, 2019

8:00 am **For the Holy Souls in Purgatory**

Friday, February 22, 2019

8:00 am **Eusevio Garza**
r/o Theresa Notte

Saturday, February 23, 2019

8:00 am **People of the Parish**
4:30 pm **Rosina Midili**
r/o The Ettinger Family
Cheryl McManus
r/o The Ross Family

Sunday, February 24, 2019

7:30 am **Stanley Woysner**
r/o Raymond & Deborah Eveland
9:00 am **Jason Wark**
r/o His Family
Margaret Schweikert
Fran & Mike Stinsman
10:30 am **Kathleen Creighton**
r/o The Birthday Group
Jean Huber
r/o Rob & Lori Rodolico
12:00 pm **Betty Taggart**
r/o Her Family



**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

Colleen Anninos, Bobby Barnett, David Beers, Desmond Bruce, Debra Burns, Billy Byrem, Tom Cairns III, Anna Catanzariti, Sharon Christenson, Tom Cimino, Dorothy Clinton, Diana Comerford, Karyn Cook, Paul Daly, Bill DeVece, Tanya DiMaio, Catherine Dirr, Rosemary DiTaranto, John Doherty, Diane Donnelly, Fr. Michael Doyle, Mark Edwards, Marianne Ford, Dot Fries, Loretta Gibson, Marlie & Megan Guicheteau, Jamie Hall, Maddie Harris, Catherine Healy, Richard Heeter, Thomas Heliger Sr, Carol Hosey, John Jordan, Jack & Phyllis Jung, Edward Knicley, Bill Kochler, Matthew Laverty, Joe Leahy, Molly Maerten, Benjamin McClintic, Hugh McGlashon, William McGonigal, Mary Meeks, Louis Merget, Amanda Milewski, Melissa Milewski, Mary Moynahan, Shawn Mulvihill, Rick Muraresku, Angela Pflugfelder, Robert Piech, Anthony Pignatelli, Betty Pollis, Anthony Portella, Kate Salamon, Michael Stanley Schneider, Dorothy Serfilippi, Charles & Susan Sharpe, Alfred Shinn, Ed Siemietkoski, Joe Sileo, Joan Siperavage, Terry Smith, Joanne Soden, Patricia Stanley, James Sutton, Eleanor Tilmont, Amy Tuccillo, Mary Vandy, Rick Van Glahn, Bob Venango, Patrick White, Barbara Wilson, and Bill Wilson

If you or a family member would like to be prayed for at Mass and listed in the bulletin, please call 856-829-0090.



Care of the sick: If a family member is sick or homebound and would like to receive Communion please contact Dawn Vermes at 856-979-5107.

The **Pastoral Counsel Meeting** of Sacred Heart Parish is an open forum. You are invited to our next meeting in the Family Center Meeting Room on Thursday, February 21st at 6:30 pm. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Pope Francis also encouraged restoring the "Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel" to our public and private prayers:

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

THIS WEEK AT SACRED HEART PARISH

NOTE: Please remember all announcements to be placed in the bulletin should be brought to the Parish Office by Friday, one week prior to the weekend the bulletin will be published.

Monday, February 18

Parish Offices Closed

6:00 pm — Legion of Mary

Family Center Room 6

Tuesday, February 19

Miraculous Medal Novena

Following 8:00 am Mass

1:00 pm — Willing and Able

Family Center

7:00 pm — NA Meeting

Epworth UM Church

501 Morgan Ave, Palmyra

Wednesday, February 20

9:00 am — Pivotal Players Bible Study

Family Center Meeting Room

8:00 pm — AA Meeting

Central Baptist Church

5th & Maple, Palmyra

Thursday, February 21

No Mary's Rosary Guild until further notice

6:30 pm—Pastoral Council Meeting

Family Center

7:00 pm — Choir Practice

Music Room

No Dance Class until further notice

Friday, February 22

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Following 8:00 am Mass

Sunday, February 24

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 pm — AA Meeting

Central Baptist Church

5th & Maple, Palmyra

**Please remember to be reverent
in Church before the Blessed
Sacrament.**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of February 9 & 10, 2019

\$8,418.00

Same Weekend last year's collection

\$8,523.00

Average needed for weekly expenses

\$14,950.00

Thank you very much for your generosity.

**Please remember Sacred Heart
in your Last Will and Testament**

Attitudes for Being Human



Luke’s version of the Beatitudes are followed by many woes; to those who are rich, those who have received consolation, those are well fed, those who laugh and are thought about highly.

Something doesn’t seem right about this picture. What about the Joy of the Lord promised in the scriptures? Even in the best of circumstances, if what we have here and now is all there is, life is woeful.

Jesus was surely sensitive to the poor and needy and he healed many who were searching for healing. But the most desperate need of the human spirit is the searching, grasping, and longing for Jesus in all the wrong ways.

It is not the well off or the influential, those consoled or thought of highly that are a problem in Luke’s beatitudes. But instead it is the “lack of dependence on God”.

We tend to be a very independent society and we teach our children to be self-reliant too. But when our mind takes on the attitudes, contrary to Jesus beatitudes and we think we can do everything on our own without giving God the Glory, then we fall into the “woes” that Luke speaks of.

We are in constant need of Jesus to remove us from our sorry state of sin and self-righteousness. We can call Him Lord of our lives, seeking His will and His ways in everything we do, or we can seek our own will and influence. Somehow I think the later may lead us down that path of woes, the path which we rather not go.

Jeremiah confirms this in the first reading as he puts down those who would seek their own strength and turn away from God. In contrast to that barren wasteland is the lush healthy roots of those who trust in the Lord. Trust leads to doing the will of God and having the right attitude towards all of humanity. When our own troubles come and we have been depending on ourselves, we may find the rug pulled out from under us. But if we are relying on God, our roots go down deep and the winds of trouble will not prevail.
Fran Stinsman

RESPECT LIFE NEWS
BURLINGTON COUNTY DIOCESAN
RESPECT LIFE

The NJ Assembly will vote on Monday Feb 25 on bill A 1504 which would legalize doctor assisted suicide. Any form of suicide is against both natural law and God’s commandments. The Executive Director of the NJ Catholic Conference feels voicing one’s opinion to their legislators is more effective than people realize, but time is very short for doing so. This may be our last chance to keep NJ from becoming a suicide-friendly state.

If you want to phone in your opinion, you can reach you legislators at:

For District 7:
Assemblywoman Carol Murphy @ 856 735-5334
Assemblyman Herb Conaway @ 856 461-3997

Plan to Attend
Annual Women's Retreat ~ March 22-24



Maris Stella Retreat Center
Harvey Cedars, NJ
For more information, contact
Kathy Portella at
609-230-1938.

“You are fully known and fully loved.”
Based on Psalm 139

CYO Basketball News



The Varsity Boys record for the last several games is as follows.

Feb. 7th loss to Sacred Heart MH 61-52
Wonderful Team effort with Adam Horner 17 points, Owen Evans 4 points.

Feb. 10th win over OLGC, 57-36

With Donovan Fey with 21 points and Adonis Jones with 19 points

Coming up:

Feb. 17th, 1:15 PM will be the last game against St. Charles at Holy Cross HS
Then we are off to the Play-offs

The JV Boys record for the last several games is as follows.

Feb. 6th win over Good Shepherd, 31-27 it was a team effort with Colin Donovan adding 2 points and Charles Ridgeway adding 2 points

Feb. 8th win over St. Mary Bordentown, another team effort with Connor McCann adding 4 points and Jackson Hager adding 2 points.

Feb. 9th win over Christ the King with contributions from Jack Jordan with 20 points and Nolan Falicki with 2 points.

Coming up:

The last game will be **Feb. 17 at home**

Good Counsel Homes South Jersey Annual Buffet and Baskets

An evening of dining, dancing, opportunity to win lots of prizes, and of course, help our moms and babies! The Buffet and Baskets is scheduled for Saturday February 23, 2019 at Infant Jesus Parish, (St. Margaret's Gym) in Woodbury Heights. Doors open at 6pm. All you can eat buffet, music by MCAesars Productions, and beautiful gift baskets. All proceeds will benefit Good Counsel Homes, Riverside. Advance tickets by February 18th will be \$30.00. After February 19th and at the door- ticket prices will be \$40.00. Bring your family and friends - we promise it to be a rewarding evening in many different ways especially knowing you are helping those less fortunate. For tickets call Rob 856-649-9519; or email DIETRICHWRW@AOL.COM. See you there!



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DANCE



Get your tickets and reserve your table early for the annual **St. Paddy's Day Dance** when everyone is Irish and wears green!

Date: Saturday, March 16th
Time: 7 to 11pm
Where: Family Center Gym
Cost: \$15 (**Bring your own beer & wine**)
Catering: Georgetti's
Tickets: Donna at 856-543-4261



Block Party Planning Meeting

Every great party takes time, energy and great resources to be successful! It's that time of year again to start planning for Sacred Heart's 15th Annual Block Party. We need **YOU**...many hands make light work. Please join us Thursday February 28th at 7:00pm in the Family Center to get involved in this year's Block Party. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still want to be involved please reach out to Cathy Hegarty at (856) 266-0600.

DIOCESE OF TRENTON releases LIST OF CREDIBLY ACCUSED CLERICS, to view the list go to dioceseoftrenton.org

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan **ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965** or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org.

Catholic Daughter's Corner

Our on going effort continues at Good Counsel Homes; Tuesday mornings we are organizing and sorting baby clothes and food. We always need volunteers. Please call Karen at 609-876-2260 if you would like to join us for a few hours.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Too often we feel as if we cannot go through the grieving process by ourselves. Sacred Heart Bereavement Ministry represents the Church Family reaching out to those who are experiencing grief and sorrow. In doing so, we extend an invitation and opportunity to learn positive ways to cope with loss, when a loved one has passed away. We minister the Love of Christ in letting all those who are grieving realize that they are not alone. If you or someone you know is experiencing loss of a loved one, we invite you to come join others who are grieving and understand.

The next Bereavement Support Group Session will begin on Thursday, February 28th, between 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Sacred Heart Family Center, (School Building)

Each week we will focus on a different topic.

- February 28th:** Introductions/Tell your story
- March 7th:** The Reality of Loss
- March 14th:** The Pain of Grief/ Our Feelings are Normal
- March 21st:** Adjusting to a Life Beyond Loss
- March 28th:** The Grieving Process
- April 4th:** Our Journey Towards a New Life

You are welcome to come for any or all of the sessions. For more information please call Fran at 829-1836.

Help one another with the generosity of the Lord, and despise no one. When you have the opportunity to do good, do not let it go by.
— St Polycarp

A PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.



Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of

Jesus, our Lord and Savior... Amen.

WEEKEND MUSIC – FEBRUARY 17TH

- 303 Gather Us In
- 461 Eye Has Not Seen
- 323 Gift of Finest Wheat
- 441 How Can I Keep from Singing?

CALLING ALL TEENS

Be sure to join us on March 15th with our Guest Speaker, Deacon Ken Heilig, who will share with us, **“ASAP, Always Say A Prayer”**. Friday Night, March 15th in the Family Center Upstairs. All are Welcome!



You are Needed!

As an answer to the call of the Spiritual and Corporal works of mercy, please consider becoming an Acolyte during our Funeral Liturgies. We are looking for a few adult members of the Sacred Heart Church community to help with funerals throughout the week. Training will be provided. If you are interested in serving at funerals please contact Deacon Michael Stinsman at (856) 745-0413.

Men's Fellowship

Men, please join us for a monthly evening of prayer and fellowship on the last Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Family Center. The dates are: February 28th, March 28th, April 25th and May 30th.



“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” John 15:13

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope St. Paul VI once said, "Never reach out your hand unless you are willing to extend an arm." With these words, he challenges us to do all we can to build up the Body of Christ in our communities and provide assistance to those in need. He urges us to offer our help with free hearts and a generous spirit, withholding nothing in our efforts.

Together, we as the Diocese of Trenton, have been able to embrace that challenge by providing the essential ministries, programs and services that make a critical difference in the lives of so many through the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Keeping in mind the words of Pope St. Paul VI, I ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal so we, together, may continue the work of strengthening parish and family life, evangelizing our community and our world, and reaching out to those in need with love and compassion.

With a grateful heart, I pray the Lord will guide you in all you do, will be your courage when strength is needed, and be your joy in all times.

Gratefully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend David O'Connell, C.M.
Bishop of Trenton.

The kick off for the Annual Catholic Appeal is the weekend of February 23rd and 24th.

Knights of Columbus

In their 100th year of service to Sacred Heart, our Knights of Columbus St. Joseph's Council of Palmyra and Riverton will be holding a Membership Drive at all masses on February 23rd and 24th. Brother Knights will be available before and after masses to talk with all interested men, 18 and older about the council and the benefits of membership including life insurance and social events. The K of C is a great way to put your faith in action through service and charity to our parish and community. Even a few hour of your time in a year can really help. Joining only takes a few minutes online and costs \$40 per year. <http://kofc.org/un/joinus>

All parish men and families are invited and welcome to an Open House at the Council House at 321 E. Broad St in Palmyra on Tuesday, February 26th from 7:00 to 8:30pm to see the facility, listen to presentations on our programs and life insurance, and enjoy some refreshments. Please join us and help grow our membership. Call the K of C at 829-9859 with any questions or email jon.janowicz@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC MEN FOR JESUS CHRIST



Attention Men!

Join other Catholic men from across the Diocese of Trenton at the **22nd Annual Men's Conference** on Saturday, February 23, at **Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish in Middletown, NJ**. The theme of this year's conference is "*Rebuild My Church*". The day runs from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and will feature Holy Mass celebrated by **Bishop David O'Connell**, as well as inspiring talks by **Curtis Martin** who, in addition to being the founder and CEO of Fellowship of Catholic University Students, is an internationally renowned author, Catholic radio & TV host; **Kevin Reilly**, former NFL player and current Philadelphia Eagles radio announcer; and **Max Ford**, an evangelist, singer and songwriter who co-founded Holy Spirit House in the south of France. There will also be music, Catholic vendors, and the opportunity to fellowship with other men who are looking to grow in their walk with Jesus and dynamically live out their Catholic faith. A youth breakout session will also be offered for young men from 8th grade to college age.

Cost is \$25 per person in advance (\$30 at the door); \$10 for students. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register online go to www.catholicmenforjesuschrist.org or call 732-671-0047

The Men of Sacred Heart Parish will be traveling together. If you are interested please call Deacon Mike Stinsman at 856-745-0413.

Save the Date



Dynamic Speaker Fr. Larry Richards will be at Sacred Heart for our Parish Mission June 24th thru 27th. On June 28th, we will be celebrating the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Watch for details to follow

Bishop asks legislators to 'consider the consequences' of 'Aid in Dying' Act

"The 'Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Act' (S1072/A1504) which allows physicians to prescribe drugs to end the lives of terminally ill individuals 'considered' to have six months to live — a prognosis that is not always accurate — embodies such jeopardy, denial and dangers to human life." So stated Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., in a Feb. 11 letter he wrote to NJ State Legislators expressing his opposition to the proposed legislation that would allow terminally ill individuals to end their lives. CNS photo

As a proposed piece of legislation that would allow physicians to assist some terminally ill patients to end their lives moves forward in the NJ State Legislature, Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., issued a letter to legislators expressing **his opposition as a "bishop, a priest, a man of faith ... but also as a human being** and a son." In the letter sent Feb. 11, the day that the Catholic Church observes World Day of the Sick, Bishop O'Connell told legislators that "never again will your responsibility be greater or your decision more important." The letter follows:
February 11, 2019 World Day of the Sick

Dear New Jersey State Legislators,

Never before in the history of our country has the life of innocent and vulnerable human beings faced such jeopardy. Never before in the history of our country have the "inalienable rights" to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" of our citizenry, affirmed by our Founding Fathers in the "Declaration of Independence," been subject to such denial by those responsible for their legal protection. Never before have our constitutional obligations to "provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity" been exposed to such danger as they are at the present moment.

The "Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Act" (S1072/A1504) which allows physicians to prescribe drugs to end the lives of terminally ill individuals "considered" to have six months to live — a prognosis that is not always accurate — embodies such jeopardy, denial and dangers to human life. Where will such legislation, commonly known as physician assisted suicide, lead? I shudder to imagine. What other consequences for human life will it directly and indirectly introduce? I dread to think.

The practice of medicine purposefully seeks to eradicate illness. Physicians pledge an oath to "do no harm." Taking a life before natural death violates that vow and there is no turning back. Their duty — and our duty as caregivers and legislators— is to assist those who are facing death, not to kill them. Medical science has made advances in our lifetime unlike the world has ever known. The care we can and should give to human beings with life-threatening illnesses reveals both the moral nobility of the efforts of physicians and caregivers to accompany the dying and their right to face the natural end of human life that all of us will eventually face, a right that is no one's — including physicians, caregivers and, yes, legislators — to take away.

I am a Catholic bishop and priest and cannot turn my back on the moral dictates of my faith. But I am also a human being and a son who sat with my father and mother until they drew their final breaths. My vocation did not make those moments easier to endure. I did not, however, and never will regret that I had the chance to be with them until the natural end of their lives, until their Creator who gave them life called them home.

Yes, I oppose **S1072** as a Catholic bishop, a priest and a man of faith. But I also oppose this proposed legislation as a human being and a son. And I ask you to consider all the consequences of the legislation that is in your hands. Never again will your responsibility be greater or your decision more important.

Respectfully yours,

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M., J.C.D.
Bishop of Trenton

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- To contact your legislator on the "Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Act" bill, visit <https://njcatholic.org/faith-in-action>.
- More information and statements on assisted suicide legislation: njcatholic.org/physician-assisted-suicide
- List of legislators for the Diocese of Trenton, njcatholic.org/legislators-by-diocese