



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

### DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

As your pastoral leaders, we often walk with you and your loved ones through the difficult process of making care and treatment decisions in times of grave illness. In these challenging moments, our faith in God sustains us and provides us with a source of loving calm, grace, and peace.

Through the years, we have received numerous inquiries from Catholics in Wisconsin requesting a care planning document that is true to Church principles and provides greater clarity for decision makers regarding treatment options. No one tool can provide certainty, nor replace the vital conversations that must occur between loved ones. However, this addendum, designed for use with the Wisconsin Power of Attorney for Health Care (POAHC) document, can help you communicate your desires in a manner consistent with our Catholic faith. While this document incorporates the principles of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, any Catholic utilizing the addendum should read through it and the Wisconsin POAHC carefully so as to fully comprehend what each provision asserts.

We also recommend you and your loved ones further discuss how to apply Catholic principles to real life situations. One resource that can help you with these conversations is our pastoral letter on advance care and treatment concerns, "Now and at the Hour of Our Death," available through the Wisconsin Catholic Conference.

We hope you find this addendum helpful in your advance care planning and that its use gives you comfort. We pray that love and grace fill your heart and grant you and your loved ones peace throughout this planning process. May we all take solace in the glory and promise of the Resurrection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
The Bishops of Wisconsin

March 2014