WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

DEAR FRIENDS:

As pastors, we have often been called upon to aid and comfort the afflicted and their loved ones through the difficult process of making care and treatment decisions. In these difficult and challenging times, our faith in God sustains us and provides us with a source of loving calm, grace, and peace. Our Catholic faith also affirms an immutable truth recognized by all – the dignity of the human person. This truth requires that we, as a human family, respectfully minister to those faced with the challenge of a chronic condition or illness.

The accompanying addendum, for use with the Wisconsin Power of Attorney for Health Care document, was developed to aid individuals who seek to further clarify their desires regarding care and treatment. The provisions of the enclosed form align with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and may significantly differ from other forms that are publicly available. While you need not be Catholic to use this addendum, we recommend that you take time to read and fully comprehend what each provision asserts.

We also recommend that you consider accessing further resources that may help you to better understand the principles that guide the provisions of the addendum. Please consider reading the booklet, "Now and at the Hour of Our Death," a pastoral letter produced by the bishops of Wisconsin and designed to help better inform individuals and families of the Church's teaching on advance care and treatment concerns. A copy of the booklet is available through the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), 608-257-0004, or through the WCC website, www.wisconsincatholic.org.

By using the addendum, with a better understanding of the principles that guide its structure, it is our hope that you will find comfort and guidance in your advance care planning. We pray that love and grace fill your heart and grant you and your loved ones peace throughout this planning process.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Bishops of Wisconsin

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