



Caring FOR THE
Whole Person

*A Collaborative Initiative of the California Catholic Conference
and the Alliance of Catholic Health Care*



Exerpts from Articles Related to Caring for the Whole Person

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER

ARTICLE 1: ["New Ways of Being Church, in the Public Square and in the Chanceries"](#) –

[Tom Roberts](#), June 18, 2019

"It really is meant to change the culture both within the church and within our health care setting on how we care for persons who are seriously ill or dying," said Lori Dangberg, vice president of the Alliance of Catholic Health Care.

"Through the Whole Person Care Initiative," as Heather Adams reported for NCR at the end of May, "all the Catholic bishops of California, the California Catholic Conference and the Alliance of Catholic Health Care have come together to create a statewide commitment to transform palliative and end-of-life care overall."

ARTICLE 2: [California initiative aims to transform care for dying – Heather Morrison](#),

May 31, 2019

The initiative has already been presented during a conference at the Vatican, and the Diocese of Orange, California, helped hold a conference around end-of-life care in San Diego in October 2018, which included a workshop held by McNerney.

Over the next two to three months, the program will start rolling out to parishes, said Lori Dangberg, vice president for the Alliance of Catholic Health Care, a public policy and advocacy organization of California's Catholic health systems and hospitals.



ARTICLE 1: [Archdiocese Forms End-of-Life Ministry Team – Christina Gray](#), September 3, 2020

The Archdiocese of San Francisco will begin training volunteers who will help parishes support the faithful in making end-of-life decisions for themselves and loved ones informed by Catholic teaching.

The Caring for the Whole Person Initiative is a collaborative organized through California Catholic Conference and the Alliance of Catholic Health Care. It hopes to ensure that Catholic parishioners are loved and supported in end-of-life decisions.

Growing public support is indicative of a deep crisis in the U.S. health care system, the bishops say.

“For good reasons, many Americans do not trust that they and their loved ones will be appropriately and effectively cared for when they experience a terminal illness,” the initiative reads.

The initiative commits dioceses to developing together, and in collaboration with other leaders in the palliative care field, a medical and pastoral approach to care through the end of life that provides a dignified, compassionate, and loving alternative to physician-assisted suicide for seriously ill people and their families.

ARTICLE 1: [Whole Person Care Initiative – James Day](#), October 11, 2018

“[The initiative] was a recognition that we need to do a much better job, both in our health care ministries and in our parish ministries, of accompanying people in serious illness and at the end of life,” said Greg Walgenbach, Director of the Office of Life, Justice, and Peace. Walgenbach and Li, together with Bishop Vann, represent the Diocese of Orange on the statewide Whole Person Care Leadership Council that was established in October 2015. “Bishop Vann, who was heavily involved in the efforts to stave off the passage of physician-assisted suicide in California, has been a strong advocate for the implementation of the WPCI from the beginning,” Walgenbach said. The state’s much-debated End of Life Option Act, the so-called “death with dignity” law, took effect in California in 2016.

ARTICLE 2: [Palliative Care Is Pro-Life Response to Euthanasia, Panelists Say - Cindy Wooden](#), Catholic News Service, March 12, 2018

Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Orange, California, attended the meeting on behalf of the California Catholic Conference, which is working closely with the Alliance of Catholic Health Care to educate people about palliative care and offer it in every Catholic hospital in California, which made physician-assisted suicide legal in 2016.

The Catholic program is called “Whole Person Care” and has the mission of showing every person they are “loved, wanted and worthy and will be prepared for and supported in health and serious illness through the end of life,” according to the project outline.

“Being present to folks” who are experiencing the fragility of the end of life, “being on the journey with them to explain to them and teach them” the sacred value of life at every stage and, particularly, showing them that they are not alone are essential for combating euthanasia, the bishop said.