



Caring FOR THE
Whole Person

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



Caring for the Whole Person Initiative Vision and Purpose

The Initiative's **Vision**, derived from the health ministry principle of **whole person care**, is:

Persons in our congregations, communities, and hospitals are loved, wanted and worthy, and will be prepared and supported in health and serious illness through the end of life.

The Initiative has a twofold **Purpose**:

1. Strengthen and improve the availability of whole person care and palliative care services in Catholic health care systems and their hospitals, and
2. Develop and implement Whole Person Care and palliative care programs in dioceses and parishes.

Caring for the Whole Person **Aspirational Statement**:

“As Church and Catholic health care leaders in California, we believe that physician-assisted suicide, while legal, is not yet an entrenched cultural or clinical reality. Recognizing this, we are committed 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. Our intent is to create a Church and Catholic health care collaborative model that serves our California parishioners and patients well, and that can be replicated by Church and Catholic health care leaders in other states.”

The **Caring for the Whole Person** Initiative is a collaborative project organized through the California Catholic Conference (CCC) and the Alliance of Catholic Health Care.¹

What is Whole Person Care?

Whole Person Care attends to people in their basic human needs, strives to optimize health, alleviate suffering, bring comfort, prevent injury and illness, and foster physical, functional, emotional, social, interpersonal, and spiritual well-being.

Whole Person Care is applicable throughout the course of life and is made available through the collaborative efforts of health care, social services, congregations, and communities in the context of an individual's family and home environment.

¹ The [California Catholic Conference](#) is the public policy voice of the Roman Catholic bishops in California. The [Alliance of Catholic Health Care](#) represents California's Catholic health care systems and their 51 Catholic and Catholic-affiliated hospitals.