***Parish Handout Flyer Templates***

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| Close-up of yellow wildflowers in grass**CARING FOR THE WHOLE PERSON INITIATIVE**  For us each, a time will come when we'll approach the end of our life here on Earth. Think of this: in every other transition we've known on this journey – birth to infancy to the preschool and school age years, to young adulthood and into relationships and vocations, into roles like marriage and parenthood that changed us so profoundly, to the achievement, or the loss of, our dreams, perhaps into the growth of connection and love with God, to the winding down of our careers think of it: at each turning point, there have been graces given to us to smooth our path. Now and then, maybe, they've come in the form of loving friends and family lent wisdom for our sake by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes that divine guidance has been given directly to us. But isn't it true? We've never been alone. |
| People need this kindness perhaps most of all as they try to prepare for life beyond this life. The pain and distress brought by their final illnesses and failing strength pose all sorts of problems. Modern medicine and skilled helpers of many kinds can ease that suffering. The wise pastoral care of priests, deacons and religious, and God's gifts in the Sacraments, can give great comfort and consolation, too.  But there's an important place for other care, care you can give, in these times to these people. The Church has Fashioned its Caring for the Whole Person initiative to help  make possible assistance for them of every kind. And there may be a role for you to play in this work.  What do we do? So much of it involves only being there, truly listening and hearing what they and their loved ones say. Listening, too, to what they don't say. In other words,  we bear witness to their experience- and in that way, we serve as one more channel of grace. We haven't any profound words or solutions for them. We give them small services, but mostly we simply give them our presence.  Not a ministry for everyone, to be sure. But maybe it's a path of service for you. Would you like to talk about it? Call or text me, NAME OF PARISH CONTACT, at CELL PHONE or EMAIL me. God bless you.  *\*Content created by Chuck Witherell, St. John of God Parish, San Francisco Archdiocese* |