

A Word About Physician Assisted Suicide

Physician assisted suicide (**PAS**) is a euphemism for when a physician helps a patient kill him/herself. Though you may never have heard it from the pulpit, the Church teaches that PAS is a “crime against human life,” an intrinsically evil act, in every situation or circumstance.

It’s important to hear and know this because many cultural obstacles obscure our awareness of the sacred value of human life and the evil of PAS. Examples include: the notion of “dignified death” as measured by a utilitarian “quality of life” standard; a false understanding of “compassion”; and today’s radical individualism where the other “is viewed as a threat to one’s freedom.” See <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/09/22/200922a.html>

Let’s keep this in mind when we’re involved in the care of people in the critical or terminal phases of life.