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Among terminally ill individuals, a request to die is often associated with a potentially treatable mental disorder such as depression or anxiety. Yet alarmingly, in Oregon, where assisted suicide has been legal since 1997, fewer than 5% of individuals who die by assisted suicide are ever referred for psychiatric or psychological evaluation to rule out the most common causes of suicidal thinking—and the percentage of those receiving such an evaluation is steadily decreasing.

DOCTOR-ASSISTED SUICIDE ENABLES SUICIDE

While individuals who are at risk for suicide often contemplate and formulate suicidal plans, and some may show warning signs, they are often ambivalent about ending their lives. The actual suicide attempt is often done impulsively, in the midst of an acute crisis or while intoxicated or emotionally distressed.

A journalist tracked down the few dozen individuals who survived jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge, which is the #1 suicide spot in the world. He asked them what was going through their minds in the four seconds between jumping off the bridge and hitting the water. Every one of them responded that they regretted the decision to jump. One man said, "I realized that all the problems in my life that I thought were unsolvable were actually solvable—except for having just jumped." To abandon individuals who have lost hope—under the guise of "respecting their autonomy"—is irresponsible.

Furthermore, completing a suicide generally requires not just intent (which typically waxes and wanes over time) but also easy access to means. People tend to fixate on one specific plan. If that particular method isn't readily available, they typically don't choose an alternative method; they choose to live. But assisted suicide increases access to a ready means to end one's life for those who are especially vulnerable due to a terminal illness.

DOCTOR-ASSISTED SUICIDE ESCALATES SUICIDE

Advocates of assisted suicide claim it is a private decision, an exercise in personal autonomy that does not affect others. But there is a well-studied "social contagion" aspect to the behavior that can't be ignored.

A recent study, which controlled for other factors that could account for the rise, showed that the permissive assisted suicide laws in Oregon and Washington have caused at least a 6% rise in overall suicide rates in those states. Additional data, although limited, enhances this distressing picture. After suicide rates had declined in Oregon in the 1990s, they rose dramatically there between 2000 and 2010—the years following the legalization of assisted suicide in 1997. By 2012, suicide rates in Oregon were 42% higher than the national average.

We know that suicide is among the health-related behaviors that tend to spread from person to person. When a person ends his or her life, it can affect the choices of that person's friends, as well as the choices of people at least three degrees of separation away: the friends of his or her friends' friends. Additionally, publicized cases of suicide lead to clusters of copycat cases—known in social science as the Werther Effect. A 2003 Swiss study, for example, showed evidence of suicide contagion following media reports of doctor-assisted suicide. No one is an island.

LEGALIZING DOCTOR-ASSISTED SUICIDE WRONGLY COMMUNICATES THAT SOME LIVES ARE NOT WORTH LIVING

Finally, the law itself is a teacher. Our laws shape cultural attitudes toward certain behaviors and influence social norms. Laws permitting assisted suicide communicate the message that, under especially difficult circumstances, some lives are not worth living. This tragically false message will be heard not only by those with a terminal illness, but by any person struggling with the temptation to end his or her life.

Every suicide is tragic. We don't discourage suicide by assisting suicide.

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The bulletin is posted online each weekend at:
www.sjamescatholicchurch.com

Bulletin Submissions: call the rectory or email to: fr.mike-morin@cdolinc.net by noon on Friday.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 9:00 am.
Confessions: Saturdays 4:30-5:15 / Sundays 8:15-8:45 / By appointment
Weekday Masses: Monday thru Friday 7:00 am

St. James Catholic Church

June 4, 2017

Pentecost Sunday

Mon. June 5	St. Boniface
Tue. June 6	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Wed. June 7	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Thu. June 8	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Fri. June 9	St. Ephrem
Sat. June 10	Weekday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Saturday	June 3	5:30 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	June 4	9:00 am	†Jim Brazda, Sr.
Monday	June 5		No Scheduled Mass
Tuesday	June 6		No Scheduled Mass
Wednesday	June 7		No Scheduled Mass
Thursday	June 8		No Scheduled Mass
Friday	June 9	7:00 am	†Msgr. Leonard Kalin
Saturday	June 10	5:30 pm	Special Intention—MM
Sunday	June 11	9:00 am	People of the Parish

On Retreat

You will notice there are no scheduled Masses here at St. James through Thursday because Fr. Morin will be on retreat. Your prayers for him are appreciated during that time—that it be spiritually beneficial personally and helpful in performing his ministry to his parish and school.

Minister Assignments

	Sat. June 10	Sun. June 11
Acolytes	Chris Ostwinkle	Craig Quick
Readers	Bobbie Feldhaus	Patty Benal
Servers	Ian Dunn	Nolan Luetkenhaus
	Briar Kems	Cade Janecek

Totus Tuus is the week of June 11-16. High School is free this year and runs from Sunday, June 11 through Thursday, June 15 from 8-10pm in the basement of St. Wenceslaus Church in Wahoo. Students going into 1st grade through 8th grade will meet from 9am to 3pm Monday, June 12 through Friday, June 16 at St. Wenceslaus Elementary School. Cost is \$30 a student or \$100 a family. The community potluck will be Wednesday, June 14 at 6pm at Smith Park Pavillion. Please bring tableware and something to sit on the grass. Registration forms are available in the back of the church or online at stwencwahoo.org. Please make checks out to St. Wenceslaus Church. Forms may be handed in at St. Wenceslaus School during school hours until Friday, May 12. After that please hand them in to Father Seiker or St. Wenceslaus Parish Office. All children from CCD, homeschooling, and Catholic school are invited! Join us for faith and fun. All questions should go to Jessica Pearson at 402-443-1722.

May 27-28 Tithe	
Adults	\$ 1,795.00
Loose	117.00
Ascension Thursday	256.00
Second Collection	65.00
Total:	<u>\$ 2,233.00</u>
<i>Monthly Obligations</i>	
St. Wenceslaus School	\$ 3,116.66
Bishop Neumann	8,247.00
Total Parish Expenses:	<u>\$ 11,363.66</u>

The new **Parish Directories** are available! If you had your portrait taken for the directory you may pick up your free copy in the vestibule. Copies are available for purchase.

Neumann Youth Boys' Basketball Camp

- Boys who were in grades 3rd, 4th, or 5th this past 2016-17 school year will have their camp — Tuesday, June 6th and Wednesday, June 7th.
- Boys who were in grades 6th, 7th, or 8th this past 2016-17 school year will have their camp —Thursday, June 8th and Friday, June 9th

Contact Mike Weiss @ 277-0495 or by email at mike-weiss@cdolinc.net for information.

Men's Retreat at St. John's: Come join Fr. Michael Zimmer for a men's retreat at St. John the Baptist Church in Prague from June 2nd-4th. Fr. Michael Zimmer will speak to men about what it means to be a Catholic man in our world today and how men can grow in their faith while living in the world. There will be three talks: Friday, June 2nd at 7pm ("*Being a Man*"), Saturday, June 3rd after the 6pm Mass ("*Behold the Man: Christ as the fullness of Man*"), and Sunday June 4th after the 10am mass ("*Living the virtuous life of Fallen Man*"). Come for as many of the talks as you'd like. Fr. Michael Zimmer will also be celebrating the parish Masses that weekend.

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with along i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the program-weekend on, **August 25-27,**

For Men & Women seeking healing from Divorce: The Catholic Divorced Survival Guide was created to bring hope and healing to divorced and separated Catholics. This 12 week program features 30-minute DVD segments that cover topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, kids, annulment, and much more. The next session will begin June 5, 2017 and is held at John XXIII Diocesan Center, from 7-9pm. Classes are kept small. Register by calling the Family Life Office at 402-473-0620, or catholicflo@cdolinc.net.

EVERY SUICIDE IS TRAGIC
(USCCB Respect Life Program)

*Doctor-Assisted Suicide
Abandons Vulnerable Individuals*

Even among terminally ill patients, a request to die is nearly always a cry for help. This request is a distress signal indicating that something in the patient's condition—at the medical, psychological, or social level—has not been adequately attended to.

Studies show that the desire for death in terminally ill individuals generally correlates with both physical pain and poor social support. When comfort or relief is offered in the form of more adequate treatment for depression, better pain management, or more comprehensive palliative care, the desire for death typically vanishes. In the Netherlands, for example, the request for "hastened death" was withdrawn by 85% of patients when their symptoms were better controlled.

Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, "Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?"

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