



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 3, 2016

Feast of Saint Blaise

Dear Pastors, Priests, and Institutional Leaders:

Thank you for taking time today to participate in this important conference on *Opposition to Assisted Suicide*. As mentioned today, we are facing a well-financed and well-organized campaign to legalize assisted suicide in New York State. It is urgent that all people of good will, particularly the leaders of the ministries and offices of our parishes, understand the issue of assisted suicide and understand the Church's guidance and teaching that respects all life from the moment of conception through natural death.

Through conferences like this, we are positioned to build opposition to this legislation and similar movements that seek to compromise the gift of life.

I ask for your continued help and support in this ongoing effort to prevent assisted suicide legislation or any future legislation like it from ever becoming law. Please continue to utilize and share with others in your parish community the best way to take action – visit the website: www.nyscatholic.org and enroll in the New York State Catholic Conference Catholic Action Network.

We must also continue to support and promote quality end-of-life care which includes appropriate palliative care and compassionate pastoral care as the response and alternative to physician assisted suicide.

May we be constantly reminded of the loving mercy God our Father gives to each of us, and may the door of charity remain open in our hearts always to serve those suffering with respect, love and dignity.

With my prayers and my gratitude for your support in this important issue, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Bishop of Rockville Centre