

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## Who Has The Right To End A Human Life?

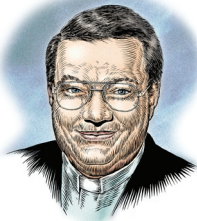
### Know This...

God has a plan for each of us. He doesn't disclose it quickly, but reveals it over our lifetime. Unfortunately, pride and impatience often lead us to think we know God's plan; and so we often walk the wrong path and fail to fulfill His will. God willed the moment of our conception; and He alone has the right to will the moment of our natural death. When someone intervenes to end a life, even the life of someone who is suffering, God's will is derailed. Euthanasia, incorrectly called 'mercy killing', is always intrinsically evil and morally wrong.



**John:** God knows it's difficult for us to watch a loved one suffer. We feel helpless; especially, when it seems our prayers go unanswered.

**James:** But our prayers, open to God's will, never go unanswered. In fact, God permits suffering to draw us into prayer. When we pray, we open ourselves to God's plan.



**John:** Euthanasia is "An action or an omission which, of itself or by intention, causes the death of handicapped, sick, or dying persons." (CCC)

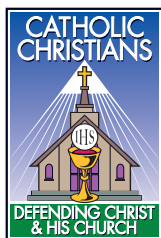
**James:** It violates the fifth commandment: "Thou shall not kill! Life is a precious gift from God. It is His to give and His alone to end."

**John:** The Church does not demand that life be prolonged at all cost. The dying may refuse aggressive, extraordinary treatment when death is imminent.

**James:** However, a misguided attempt to show mercy and end suffering by ending a life is murder and is always forbidden.

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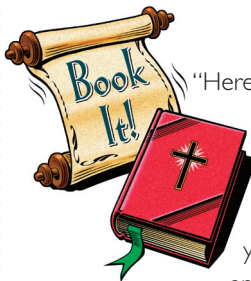
Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.'" Mt. 5:21 God can choose to heal the sick. We must have faith in His plan. "Jesus said to the centurion, 'You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.' And at that very hour his servant was healed." Mt. 8:13

"No one should inflict a voluntary death on himself by fleeing temporal troubles, lest he fall into eternal troubles." St. Augustine "It is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it, indeed if he request it because, hanging between life and death, he begs for help in freeing the soul struggling against the bonds of the body and longing to be released." St. Augustine



### PAPA SAYS

"[Today] death is considered 'senseless' if it suddenly interrupts a life still open to a future of new and interesting experience. But it becomes a 'rightful liberation' once life is held to be no longer meaningful because it is filled with pain and inexorably doomed to even greater suffering... In harmony with the Magisterium of my Predecessors and in communion with the bishops of the Catholic Church, I confirm that euthanasia is a grave violation of the law of God, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person." Pope John Paul II



"Here, then, I have today set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. If you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God... you will live and grow numerous, and the Lord, your God, will bless you... If, however, you turn away your hearts and will not listen, but are led astray and adore and serve other gods... you will certainly perish; you will not have a long life... I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him." Deut 30:16-20a "I alone, am God, and there is no god besides me. It is I who bring both death and life, I who inflict wounds and heal them." Deut 32:39 "Accept whatever befalls you... Trust God and he will help you." Sir 2:4a, 6a "Is anyone among you sick? ... The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up." Jas 5:14a, 15a

Loving Father, You not only gave me life, You created me in Your image. All human life is precious; and it is Yours to give and Yours to take. I pray that all Your children will soon obey Your words—"thou shall not kill"—and reject all forms murder; especially abortion and euthanasia. I ask this through Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

