How should we respond to those who are in pain and suffering at the end of life?

Do we take their life or give them care?

Let us say "yes" to life and not to death.

— Pope Francis

Even when not motivated by a selfish refusal to be burdened with the life of someone who is suffering, **euthanasia must be called a false mercy**, and indeed a disturbing perversion of mercy. **True compassion leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear**.

Moreover, the act of euthanasia appears all the more perverse if it is carried out by those, like relatives, who are supposed to treat a family member with patience and love, or by those, such as doctors, who by virtue of their specific profession are supposed to care for the sick person even in the most painful terminal stages. (Pope Saint John Paul II: *Gospel of Life - EV 66*)

Our faith teaches us:

. . . 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 Saint John Paul II: *Gospel of Life - EV 65*)

To forego extraordinary or disproportionate means is not the equivalent of suicide or euthanasia; it rather expresses acceptance of the human condition in the face of death.
(EV 65)

Concerning **Assisted suicide:** . . . it is never permissible to kill another; even if he or she should wish it. . . . *(EV 66)*

Palliative Care is specialized medical care for patients and families facing serious and chronic illness. Through effective pain management and comfort measures, it can help patients achieve the best possible quality of life right up until the end of life.

Hospice provides palliative care in a home-like setting. The focus is on caring, not curing, and on life, not death.