

# What I Believe as a Catholic About Life and Death

*This declaration is adapted from a statement of Catholic moral principles published by the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Pro-Life Committee. Use these statements to identify and discuss your personal beliefs as a Catholic Christian.*

I believe that human life is the foundation for all other human goods and has a special value and significance. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that every human being has a unique dignity and value from the moment of conception and in every stage of development, whatever his or her physical condition. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that death is unavoidable and that it can open the door to eternal life. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that a dying person should accept its reality and prepare for death emotionally and spiritually without in any way trying to hasten the hour of death. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that suffering is a fact of human life, and has special meaning for the Christian as an opportunity to share in Christ's redemptive suffering. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that there is nothing wrong in trying to relieve someone's suffering. I believe this is a positive thing to do as long as one does not intentionally cause death or interfere with the person's moral or religious duties. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that everyone has the duty to care for his or her own life and health and to seek necessary medical care. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that this does not mean that all possible remedies must be used in every circumstance. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that a person is not obliged to use either extraordinary or disproportionate means to preserve life -- in other words, means which offer no reasonable hope of benefit or involve excessive burden. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that in the final stages of dying a person is not obliged to prolong life by every means possible. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I believe that when inevitable death is imminent it is permitted to refuse forms of treatment which would only secure a precarious and burdensome prolongation of life, so long as the normal care due to the sick person in similar cases is not interrupted. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

I oppose euthanasia, willful suicide, or any other action or omission which of itself, or by intention, causes death. Agree  Disagree  Not Sure

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_