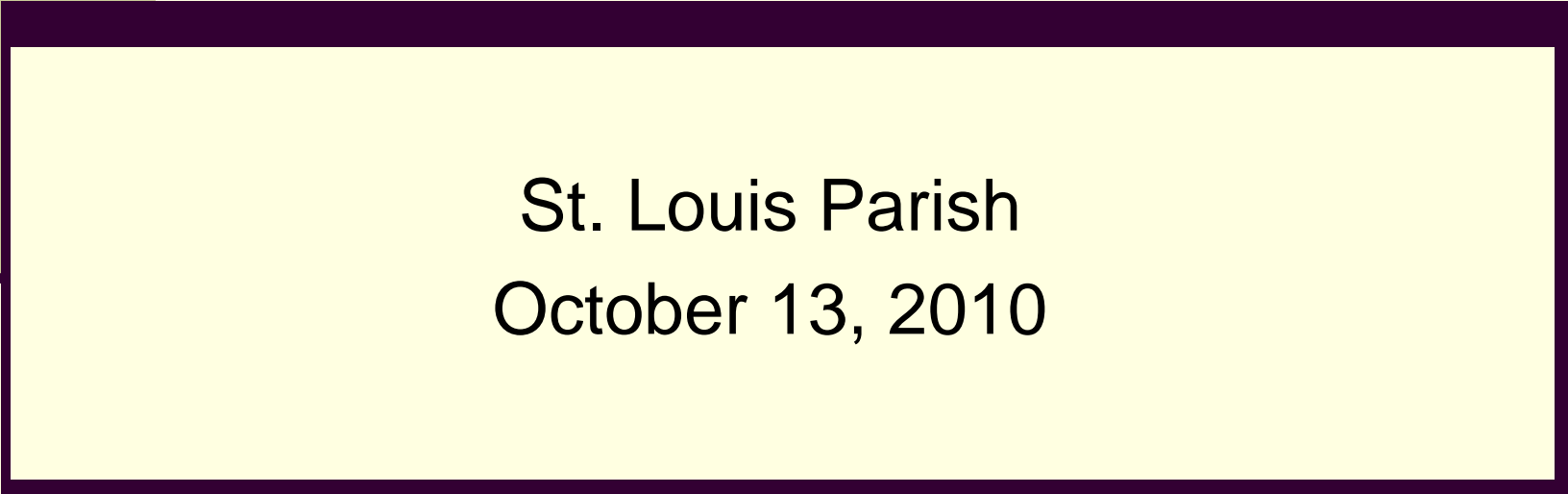




End of Life Issues Diocese of Rochester



St. Louis Parish
October 13, 2010

Anticipating the End of Life

Death regarded as the last taboo subject. Discussion about it makes many people uncomfortable.

Radical differences between individual approaches to death are often dependent upon life experiences; available resources; faith.

Anticipated death an issue in technologically advanced cultures where diagnostics and monitored response to treatments make prognostics about the end of life common.

What is Death? Physical Answer

Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA)

1981

An individual who has sustained either (1) irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions, or (2) irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem, is dead.

What is Death? Catholic Teaching

■ Catechism of the Catholic Church # 997

In death, the separation of the soul from the body, the human body decays and the soul goes to meet God, while awaiting its reunion with its glorified body.

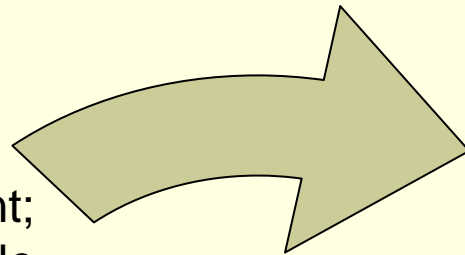
Concerns about Dying

- Denial of Treatment
- Physical Pain
- Premature Death
- Burden on Family
- Spiritual Suffering
- Entering Heaven or Hell
- Over-Medicalized Treatment
- Need to Control the Final Act of Life
- Acting in Accord with Church Teaching
- Well Being of Survivors

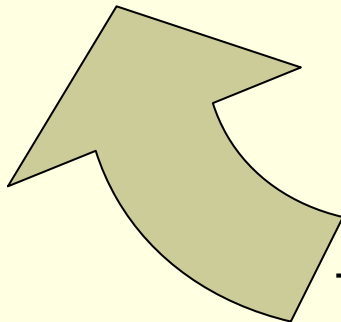
From Living to Dying

Healthy; independent;
manageable
medical interventions

Health Care Proxy Needed



Advancing chronic illness;
Multiple co-morbidities;
Increasing frailty



Dying Trajectory

MOLST Needed

Treatment decisions
often required

Death Occurs

