

*The  
CIRCLE of LIFE  
JOURNEY*

*WEEK 10  
Respect for Life  
until  
Natural Death*

As our JOURNEY nears its end . . .

We are reminded that the CIRCLE OF LIFE  
is an UNBROKEN circle that never ends,  
for in our funeral liturgies, we pray:

*"Lord, for your faithful people . . ."*



*". . . LIFE is CHANGED,*

*When the body  
of our earthly dwelling  
lies in death,  
We gain an everlasting  
dwelling place  
in heaven."*

Order of Christian Funerals

**'LIFE is changed, not ended.'**

*"You have folded up my life,  
like a weaver who  
severs the last thread."*

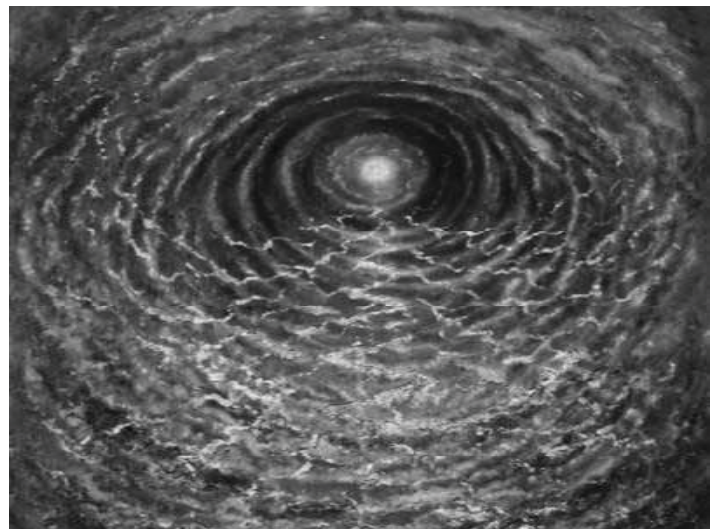


Isaiah 38:12



**'LIFE is changed, not ended.'**

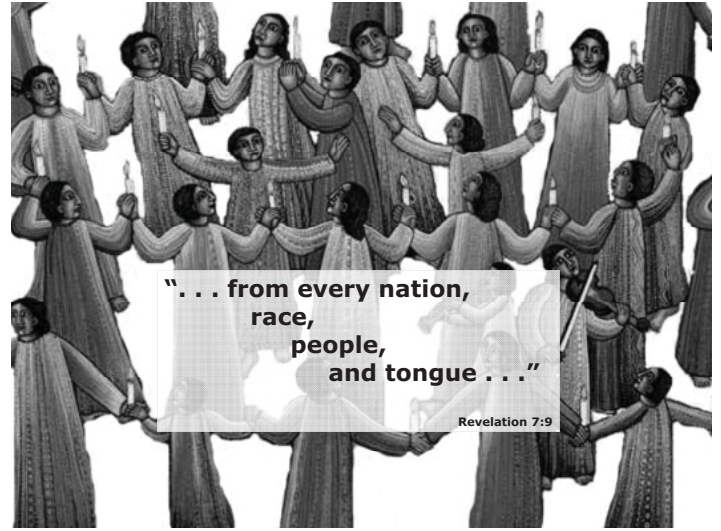
**. . . and the LIFE that is woven  
together into the SEAMLESS GARMENT  
is now set free!**





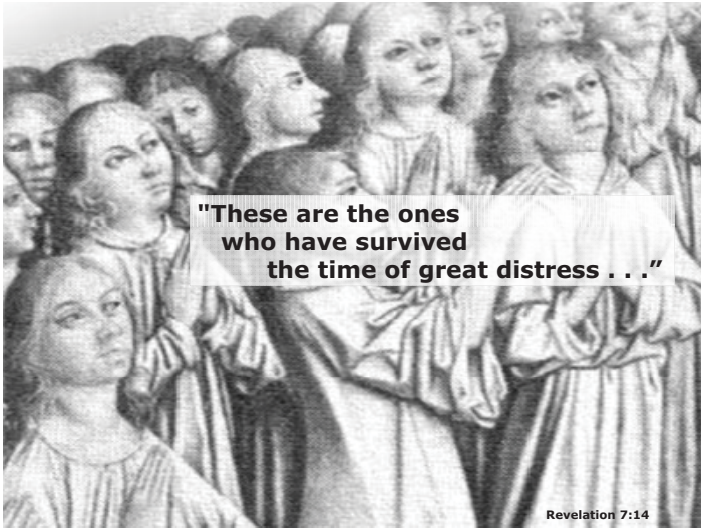
**"After this I had a vision  
of a great multitude,  
which no one  
could count . . ."**

Revelation 7:9



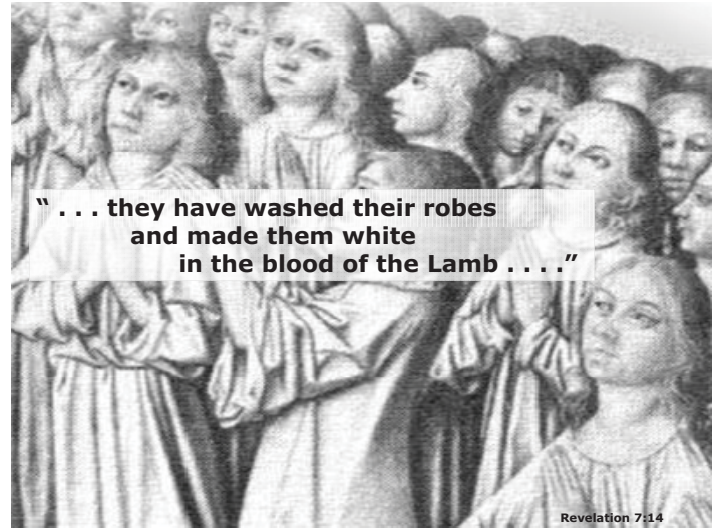
**". . . from every nation,  
race,  
people,  
and tongue . . ."**

Revelation 7:9



**"These are the ones  
who have survived  
the time of great distress . . ."**

Revelation 7:14



**". . . they have washed their robes  
and made them white  
in the blood of the Lamb . . ."**

Revelation 7:14



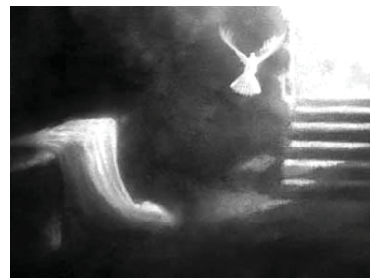
**". . . and God will  
wipe away  
every tear  
from their eyes."**

Revelation 7:17

As Christians,  
we face death  
with the confidence  
of our faith . . .

in Him who has conquered death

by His  
**RESURRECTION.**



"Naked I came forth  
from my mother's womb,  
and naked shall I go back again.



'The LORD giveth . . .  
. . . the LORD taketh  
away.'

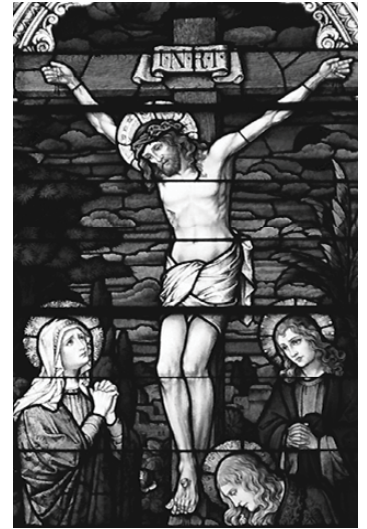
Blessed be  
the name  
of the LORD!"

Job 1:21

If, then,  
we have  
died with Christ,

we believe that  
we shall also  
live with him.

Romans 6:8



For I am convinced  
that neither death,  
nor life,  
nor angels,  
nor principalities,  
nor present things,  
nor future things,  
nor powers,  
nor height,  
nor depth,  
nor any other creature . . .



. . . will be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

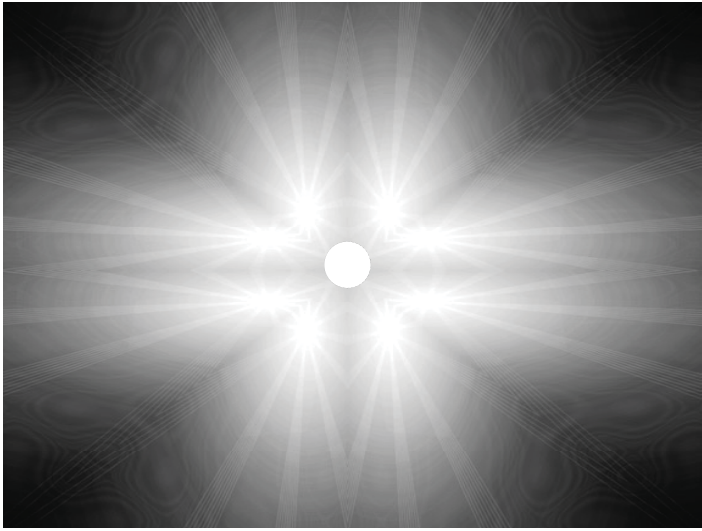
Romans 8:38-39

*Respect for LIFE  
until*



*NATURAL  
DEATH*





"To witness death . . .

Demands that one  
. . . come to terms  
rather radically

with one's own  
approaching death . . .



. . . as a dimension of life  
in the present."

Monika Hellwig

End-of-life issues  
touch the depths  
of our being,  
stir the emotions,  
and raise  
profound questions.



Catholic Update  
"End-of-Life Ethics" 

*What the Church teaches . . .*



Life is holy,  
deserving of respect  
and reverence.

Catholic Update  
"End-of-Life Ethics" 

*What the Church teaches . . .*

Life, however,  
is not an absolute good.

There is a greater good:



our relationship  
with God.

Catholic Update  
"End-of-Life Ethics" 

*What the Church teaches . . .*

We are stewards  
of LIFE.



We have the responsibility  
to care for that  
which is not totally  
"our own."

As stewards,  
we respond with care  
and compassion  
to those who are suffering.



And protect the weak from being viewed as  
'lives not worth living.'



We are called  
to keep company  
with the dying,  
in order  
to  
affirm

their DIGNITY  
in every phase  
of life.

Catholic Update "Why the Church  
Opposes Assisted Suicide"



*What the Church teaches . . .*

The conviction  
that we are STEWARDS OF LIFE  
grounds the Church's  
opposition to EUTHANASIA.



*What the Church teaches . . .*



We cannot  
dispose of life  
as we please.

*What the Church teaches . . .*

Euthanasia and assisted suicide,  
– even for compassionate reasons –  
imply that we have  
absolute control over life . . .



. . . and so contradict  
who we are  
as faithful stewards  
of God's gift of life.



As good stewards,  
we believe that death  
is not the final word. . .

Therefore,  
we do not have to keep  
someone alive "at all costs."

We are obligated to use  
only those treatments that offer  
a reasonable hope of benefit  
and do not involve  
an excessive burden.

Catholic Update  
"End-of-Life Ethics"



Facing death  
can be a time of isolation,  
anguish and despair . . .



. . . it can also be a time  
of extraordinary  
spiritual growth  
and fulfillment.

Catholic Update "Why the Church  
Opposes Assisted Suicide"

Planning now  
can be a PRAYERFUL experience,



confronting  
the final  
MYSTERY OF LIFE

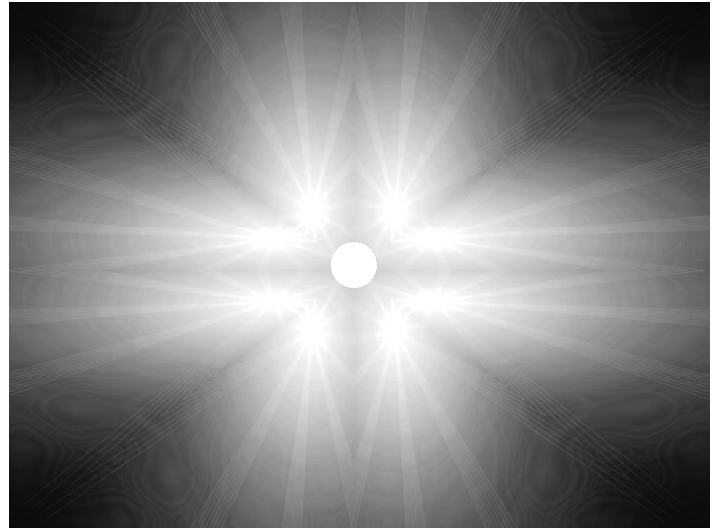
and trusting in  
our gracious God,  
the source and goal  
of all LIFE.

Catholic Update  
"End-of-Life Ethics"

*"Do not be afraid  
of anything that you  
are going to suffer. . . .*

*Remain faithful until death,  
and I will give you  
the crown  
of LIFE."*

Rev 2:10



### *Our Prayer*

You, O God,  
are the Author of Life,  
You are Mercy itself.

Send your wisdom and compassion  
to all who face end-of-life decisions  
while confronting the Mystery of Life.

Bless and console those who are dying,  
those who are suffering,  
and those who grieve —  
both with the dying, and for the dying.

Gently wipe away every tear from our eyes,  
and fill us with the hope  
of eternal joy!

*Amen*

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