

INTERCEDE



PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

November is the month that the Church dedicates to praying for the souls in purgatory. As we anticipate the beginning of Advent, the lectionary readings call us to prepare for our own passing from this life to the next. Death is a decisive moment in our encounter with God, and the time preceding this encounter holds great significance.

The Church reminds us of our obligation to readily accompany those in the critical and terminal stages of life. Our care for those approaching death must uphold the dignity and integrity of the whole person, including physical, psychological, social, familial, and spiritual support. Our faith calls us to remain at their side, just as Mary and the Beloved Disciple remained with Jesus at the foot of the Cross. Our presence during this sacred time is sign of love and inherent hope. Accompanying our loved ones at the end of their earthly lives is a supreme act of charity which can help them persevere in sanctifying grace.

ACT (choose one)

- Pray the prayer at the end of Pope John Paul II's "Letter to the Elderly" (no. 18): www.bit.ly/letter-to-elderly.
- Choose one day of the week to fast for this month's intention.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. Learn about the difference between the authentic compassion of life-affirming palliative care and the false compassion of assisted suicide in this article: www.bit.ly/killing-pain-not-patient.

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released a letter on end of life care entitled, *Samaritanus bonus*, "on the care of persons in the critical and terminal phases of life" (www.bit.ly/samaritanus-bonus). Using the witness of the Good Samaritan, the letter reaffirms the Church's teaching on care for those who are critically ill or dying and offers additional pastoral guidance for increasingly complex situations at the end of life.

