

RESOURCES TO OPPOSE LEGALIZED  
**PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE**  
HOMILY HINTS | MARYLAND 2024

SUNDAY, FEB. 4, 2024

[Job 7:1-4, 6-7 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mark 1:29-39](#)

### Key Points

- Despair and suffering are a part of life that we all experience at some point, but God has made sure that we are not alone and that suffering does not have the last word.
- While it is tempting to avoid suffering at all costs, as our society urges us to do even through practices like assisted suicide, we must be willing to accept God's plan for our lives and allow his accompaniment to redeem and transform our suffering.
- The Maryland General Assembly is currently considering a bill to legalize assisted suicide in the state. Please contact the legislature and encourage your senator and delegates to vote no on the bill.

### Additional Ideas

- In the first reading, we see Job's intense despair over his life. So many of us can empathize with his despair. We all have or will at some point struggle with despair, whether due to the loss of a loved one, financial difficulties, an illness or any number of other challenges. Suffering is part of life. But as we see in the Gospel and as Job eventually discovers, it does not have the last word.
- God sent his son, Jesus, to suffer and die for us. In a radical way, God made himself present with us in our suffering. In the Gospel, we see Jesus healing people and casting out demons. He walks with people in their suffering, both physical and spiritual, and through his presence transforms it. Jesus continues to offer this transformative accompaniment to us today if we are willing to accept it.
- But so often we can feel like we must avoid suffering at all costs. This attitude is especially prevalent in our society today. In its elevation of pleasure as the highest good our society even seeks to legalize the practice of assisted suicide as a method of avoiding suffering. Advocates claim that assisted suicide is a compassionate option for those suffering from severe illness because a life of suffering is no longer worth living.
- However, this practice, in its desperate attempt to eliminate physical suffering, forgets that there is greater meaning to our lives beyond mere pleasure. Every one of us was created by God so that we could know and love him, and he could love us. Even in our suffering God never stops loving us – and therefore our lives continue to have meaning. By rejecting God's plan for our lives, assisted suicide exacerbates our spiritual pain and removes the possibility of the transformative and redemptive accompaniment that we see in the Gospel.
- We must bravely reject our culture that seeks pleasure and avoids pain at all costs. Instead, we must place our trust in God, as Job does and be willing to embrace the accompaniment of Jesus found in the Gospel and its transformative effects on our suffering. Please tell your state senator and delegates to vote no on the bill to legalize physician assisted suicide so we can restore our culture's recognition of the greater value and purpose of our lives found in our relationship with God.