

# On Death V

## Interventions, when is it morally correct to do the “right” thing?

Is death the worst thing that can happen to me? For a Christian the answer is a resounding “no”; as Paul concluded to die is to go to Jesus; to live is to remain here in order to work for the good of all. When we are ready to lay down our lives, we believe we have a guaranteed place in the Kingdom of God. However in the meantime, how should we prepare for the inevitable? There are “advanced directives” that can take a lot of the pressure off your spouse, your family and loved-ones. They ask some simple questions that give direction to the medical establishment and more importantly to your family. They ask first of all something like “Do you want to prolong your life as long as possible?” In other words do you want the Doctors to do everything with medical technology to keep you “alive?” The second question is “If your condition is incurable or irreversible, and you are unconscious and there is virtually no hope of recovery, and if the risks and burdens of treatment outweigh the benefits, would you choose to prolong your life, or not to do so?” This is a very personal choice, and one that no one should have to make for another. Because we want the best for our loved ones, it is easy to choose to prolong a life if only because we find it difficult to choose. That is why it is best to leave these instructions so that the burden of the choice is not placed squarely on the shoulders of those you love. The church teaches that no one must prolong their life by heroic means. If we can breathe and circulate blood on our own, nothing should be done to prematurely terminate life. Life being a gift from God is in His hands. But if machines are necessary for breathing and other bodily processes one may elect to discontinue such “treatments” and let God and nature take their course.

**IHM Pray for us.**

*Fr. Jerry*