

# *My Life Story*

## A LEGACY PROJECT

FOSTERING DIGNITY FOR THE  
ELDERLY, FRAIL, SICK, AND  
TERMINALLY ILL

A Christian response to the Culture of Death, Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia, the Loss of Dignity and the Denial of Personhood.

### OVERVIEW

The St. Bernadette Ministry's focus is to serve those who are near or at the end of life, the frail elderly living in nursing homes or at home, individuals who are experiencing loss of dignity, or those whose life is nearing sunset.

As a ministry specifically for the sick, we serve those who are terminally ill, in particular for our malades, malades-in-spirit, and our members and their families.

*Saint Bernadette*  
*Pray for us*

### PALLIATIVE CARE COMMITTEE

- ❖ Donna E. Coletti, MD, DM  
Committee Chair
- ❖ Thomas J. Forlenza, MD, KMOB
- ❖ Craig B. Gibson, KM
- ❖ Linda A. Kelly, DM
- ❖ Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM
- ❖ Susan S. Liguori, DM
- ❖ Joan A. Magner, MD, DM
- ❖ Karen S. Wright, DC, DM

### CONTACT

your Area Chair for more information

## ST. BERNADETTE PALLIATIVE CARE MINISTRY

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FOSTERING DIGNITY  
OF THE SICK



ORDER OF MALTA  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

*Life is a Gift*



*To be Celebrated  
& Shared*

#### THE WORK

Everyone has a beautiful story to tell and to share in the preciousness of passing on wisdom.

*My Life Story: A Legacy Project* is a way to remember and be remembered; it is one's important moments, a history as an autobiographical poem in prose in the storyteller's own words. This, as a legacy document, is for them to share with and leave for their family and friends.

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#### BACKGROUND & HISTORY

This *My Life Story: A Legacy Project* of the American Association of the Order of Malta is based on two programs.

One is the clinical model developed by Dr. Harvey Chochinov's "Dignity Therapy" which is offered to patients who are on palliative care, in hospices and hospitals, the opportunity to talk about their lives and preserve their history.

The second model is from the Eastern Palliative Care, a partnership between Outer East Palliative Care Service, Order of Malta, and St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia offering home-based integrative palliative care. Their volunteer services include "The Biography Project" in addition to respite, companionship, transportation, and homebound support.



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