

'Let Love Speak': No One Should Die Alone

CHARLES LEWIS

I live in Canada, a country in which euthanasia has run amok. Compassion has been replaced by killing. It's become normal.

A few of us tried to stop it. But the odds, as it turned out, were against us.

I was a career journalist. I watched and reported on our descent into madness. It was depressing to realize that friends and colleagues thought state-sanctioned death was progressive.

I soon realized the only thing I could do was to accompany those who had chosen a natural death on their journey home to God. It was the answer to quell the frustration of living in a society in which some lives are considered disposable. It was also a way to exercise my faith. So a few years ago, I became a hospice volunteer...

In June 2016, physician-assisted suicide was legalized. We were assured that only those near death and in intractable pain could apply.

The word euthanasia was never used. Euthanasia, I was told, was pejorative. Instead the government came up with the Orwellian term "Medical Aid In Dying", or MAID.

By December 2016, the government struck a committee of academics to study the feasibility of extending euthanasia to teens, the mentally ill, and those whose death was NOT foreseeable. It was clear to me that this was not just an academic exercise. No one studies things they never plan to do. The promise of "no slippery slope" was a lie.

For much of the time when this was going on, I was a journalist at the *National Post* in Toronto. I covered religion and ethics. Watching our descent into madness was heartbreaking, both as a Catholic and a citizen who believed that we were a compassionate nation... *This is a fair use quote and is taken from the Catholic Education Research Center, catholiceducation.org*

ETERNAL REST™ THE ART OF DYING WELL



Eternal Rest the Art of Dying Well is a new series from Formed that addresses large-scale questions about death from a Catholic perspective.

For people who love to be in control, "Medical Aid In Dying", MAID, is a terrible temptation to commit a grave sin. As with all else in our lives, we want to be in charge. We want to pick the time and the date. We want to organize our departure so it suits us and our plans.

But this is **just the opposite** of what Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:44. Jesus tells us directly **"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."**

It is very simple. God is in control of our life and our death. We are in control of being prepared. This Lent take charge of your own preparation for death by watching this new Formed Series.

If not now, when? The series consists of **four 30 minute episodes**.

There are several options:

- **Watch it on your own**
- **Watch it with your family and friends in your own small group**
- **Watch it here at St B with a group of your fellow Parishioners.**

**If you are interested in watching it here at St Benedict, please contact Pat McGuire at 574-360-1477 or pmpe31751@gmail.com Dates and times are still to be determined.

**If you are interested in watching it here at St. Aloysius, Fr. Terry Langford will be facilitating the series on Wednesdays, March 1, 15, 22 & 29 at 10 am in the cafeteria. RSVP to 502-543-5918 or secretary@stafalcons.com.