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Our Dear Catholic People:

When we gather as a family of faith each Sunday, we profess our faith that death is not the end of life, but rather the beginning of eternal life: *we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.* We Catholic bishops of the State of Kansas invite you to reflect on these words in the light of the enclosed ***Catholic Declaration on Life and Natural Death.***

This Declaration is designed to reaffirm the teaching of the Church on the dignity of human life, and to help others both to know and, in the case of the other's incapacity, to follow another person's wishes about health care decisions. We invite you to read and to pray over and to share this material with your family members, friends, and advisors.

It is morally permissible for a Catholic to sign this ***Catholic Declaration on Life and Natural Death.*** We encourage you to consider doing so, and to select and designate a durable power of attorney for health care decisions, and to give a copy of the signed forms to family members, physicians, lawyers, and pastors. It is best to have someone with knowledge of your moral values and your desires for treatment who can apply your wishes to the unique and special circumstances of your specific condition and the health care technology and treatment available.

While we accept our obligation to care for the gift of life that God has entrusted to us and never to do anything by act or omission to end our life or the life of another, at the same time *we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.* We need not fear our death, for it is our birth to Eternal Life. We can therefore face death with dignity and grace, ever thankful to the God who gives us life.

Sincerely yours,

Most Rev Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas

Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley
Bishop of Salina

Most Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore
Bishop of Dodge City

Most Rev. Michael O. Jackels
Bishop of Wichita

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