

The annual Public Policy Weekend will be Feb. 8-9, 2020. This year the state's bishops are asking Catholics to sign a petition opposing a bill to legalize physician assisted suicide in New York.

To help us reflect on this issue the Cathedral Community will offer a 90-minute workshop on **Saturday January 18, from 2:15 to 3:45**. (There is a 4 pm Mass at the Cathedral.)

Many people and their families struggle with the care decisions to be made in the setting of advanced illness. Those struggles are often further amplified as death approaches. When is a Do Not Resuscitate order the right decision? Is it OK to not use artificial fluids and feeding through a stomach tube? Will pain medication hasten death? What is the difference between aggressive symptom management and physician assisted suicide?

Patients and their families can easily recognize the universal distress captured in the lament of a young doctor working with a family on a feeding tube decision: "Sometimes it's just so hard to know the right thing to do."

Aware of the burden and uncertainty inherent in end of life care decision-making, we would like to offer you an opportunity to attend a session where your questions can be raised and addressed by a panel of individuals with expertise in this area. We will have a theologian, 2 physicians, a hospice nurse and a social worker. We think this will be an extremely important and life affirming session.

The Cathedral is at 296 Flower City Park, between Lake and Dewey Avenues, in Rochester.