



CHAI 74th Annual General Body Meeting

“Resources: Identify, Harmonize, Optimize”

September 23th - 24th, 2017 - Kochi, India



The PAL-LIFE Project

An International Advisory Working Group on Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World

Nunziata Comoretto, MD, PhD, LRS
Pontifical Academy for Life
Scientific Section
(Vatican City)

OUTLINE

- **The Pontifical Academy for Life**
- **The PAL-LIFE Project:**
 - Background
 - Aim
 - Methods
 - Strategy



Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV)

- Established by Pope John Paul II in 1994, for the promotion and defense of the value of human life and of the dignity of the person.

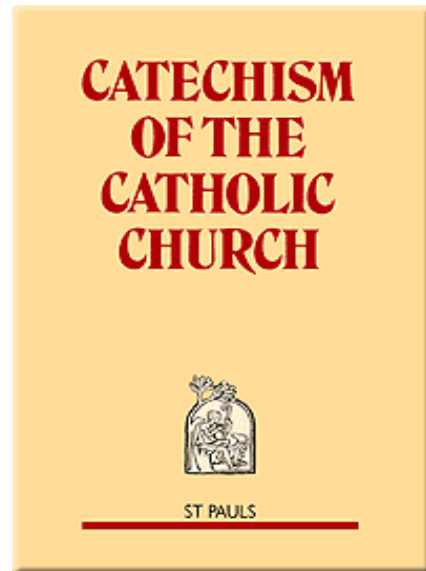


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- Academic Task
- Social Task
- Communication Task

PAL-LIFE: the background

Magisterium of the Catholic Church has intervened several times in recent years to emphasize the dignity and preciousness of each human being, even of those who are afflicted with a serious or terminal illness. Special appreciation is shown for the approach offered by PC.



«... palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity. As such it should be encouraged»

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2279)

PAL-LIFE: the background

«Here it is necessary to stress once again the need for more palliative care centres which provide integral care, offering the sick the human assistance and spiritual accompaniment they need. This is a right belonging to every human being, one which we must all be committed to defend»

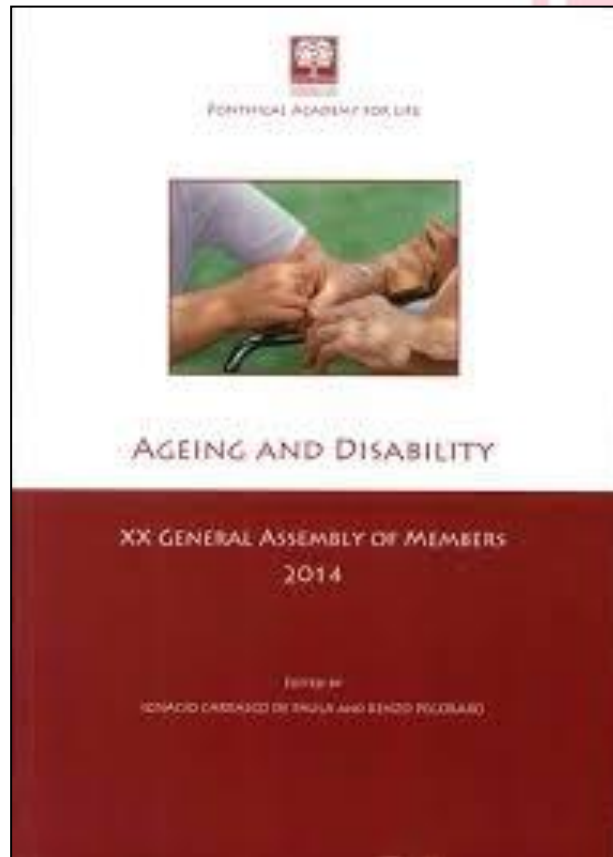
(Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the 15th World Day of the Sick, 11 February 2007)

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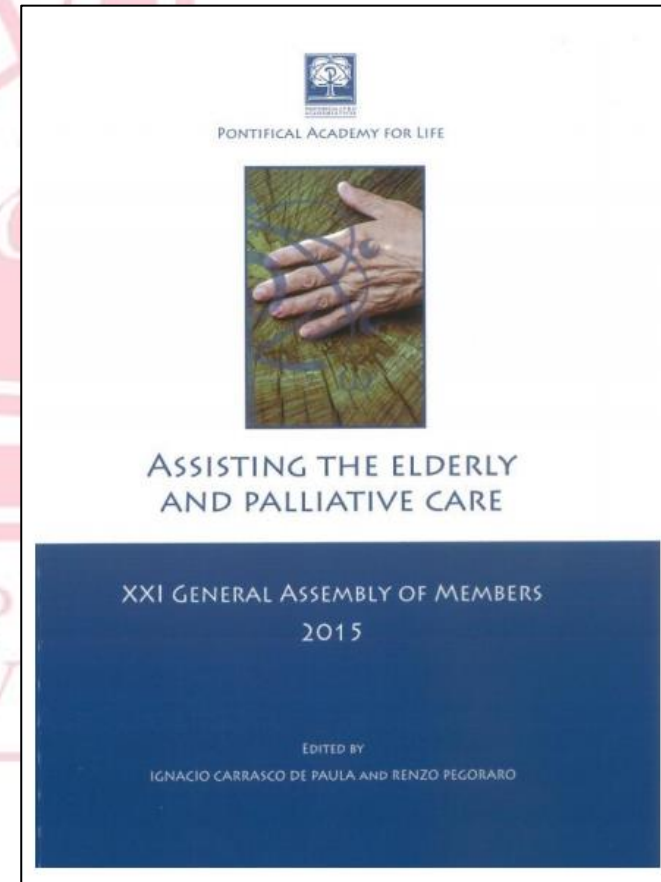


Two recent PAV General Assemblies

**“Aging and Disability”
(2014)**



**“Assisting the Elderly and Palliative Care”
(2015)**



PAL-LIFE: the background

«Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. [...] I encourage professionals and students to specialize in this type of assistance which is no less valuable for the fact that it “is not life-saving”. Palliative care accomplishes something equally important: it values the person»

(Pope Francis, Message to the XXI General Assembly of PAV, 5 March 2015)

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PAL-LIFE: the aim

- To stimulate the social and cultural attention on the reality of PC and to promote, at different levels, the dialogue and cooperation between the various stakeholders in the realization of concrete projects of PC.

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PAL-LIFE: the method

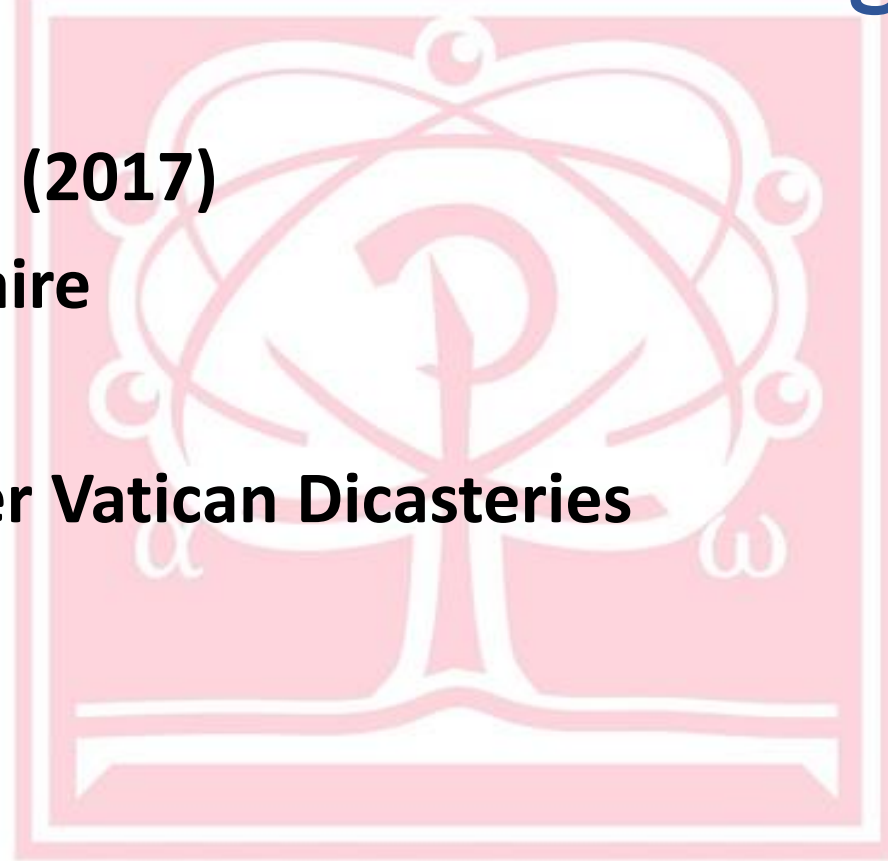
- To promote greater sensitivity in ecclesial realities toward the need to develop good PC in different areas of the world.
- To stimulate the attention by non-ecclesial institutions, NGO's and association working with similar aim.
- To act as an interlocutor for academic and scientific institutions.



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PAL-LIFE: the strategy

- **1st Meeting PAL-LIFE (2017)**
- **PAL-LIFE Questionnaire**
- **Regional events**
- **Involvement of other Vatican Dicasteries**
- **Study Commissions**
- **Seminars**
- **Advocacy Activities**
- **White Paper for global PC advocacy**
- **Public launch event of the PAL-LIFE Project (February 2018)**



PAL-LIFE: the strategy

1st Meeting PAL-LIFE

Vatican City, March 31 – April 1, 2017

- It focused on barriers and opportunities for the diffusion and development of PC in the world.
- The proceedings will be printed and online, translated into several languages.



PAL-LIFE: the strategy

1st Meeting PAL-LIFE

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Letter to the Editor

“PAL-LIFE Project: International Advisory Working Group on Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World” — First Meeting Report

Nunziata Comoretto, MD, PhD

THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE (Vatican City) has recently launched a new Project on the care for the dying, called “PAL-LIFE: International Advisory Working Group on the Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World.” During the first meeting, which was held in Rome on March 31 and April 1, 2017, the partici-

health systems, is considered an important step on to urge member states to develop PC policies (M. Rajagopal).

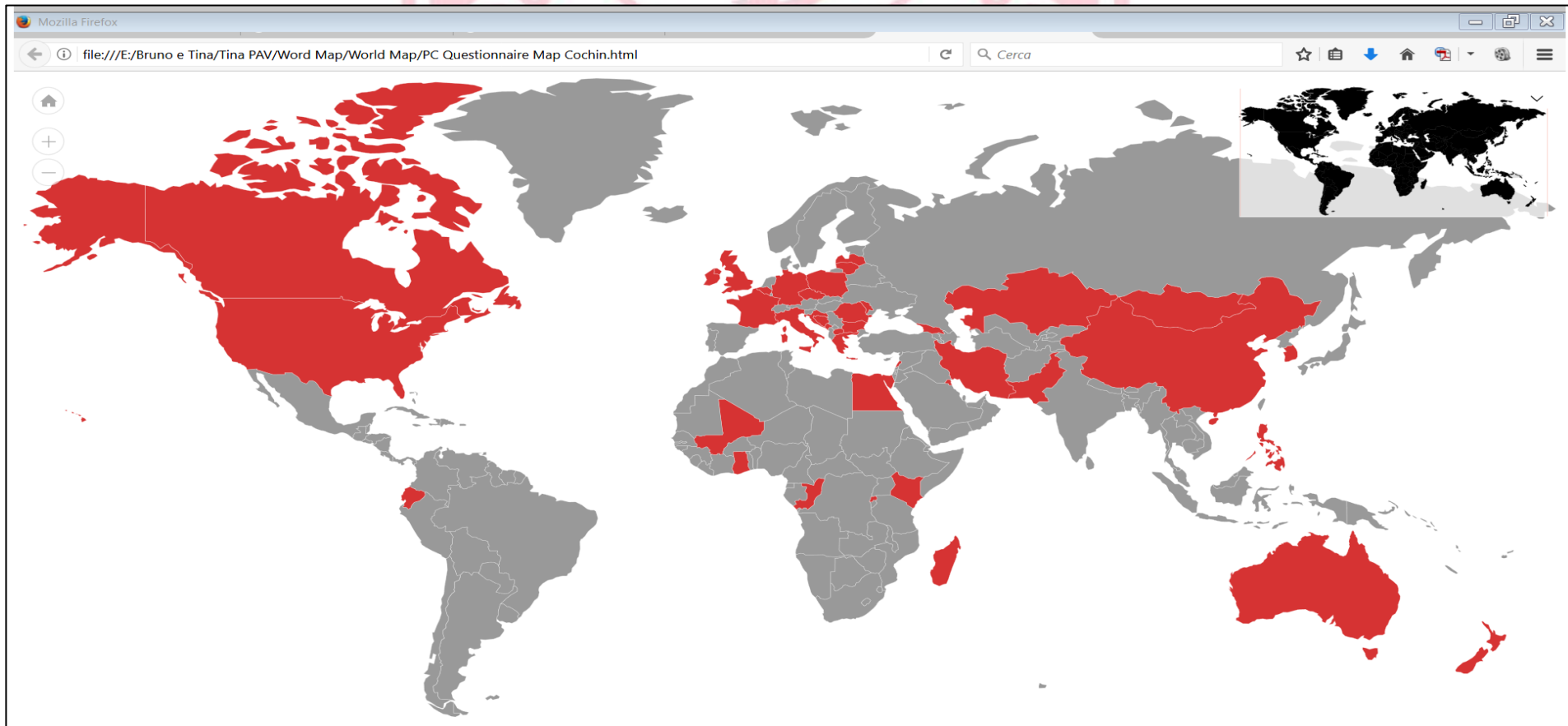
The biggest obstacle to the development of PC programs globally is the lack of awareness of their existence and specificity. This “ignorance” affects all stakeholders—ordinary citizens, media that provide information about end-of-life is-

<https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2017.0237>

PAL-LIFE: the strategy

PAL-LIFE Questionnaire

Intended to gather information about the medical, social and cultural realities of PC in a Catholic context.



PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Regional events: Objectives

- To promote cooperation with governmental entities.
- To promote professional PC training through on-site programs and international cooperation.
- To promote a culture of inclusion.

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PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Regional events: Current activities

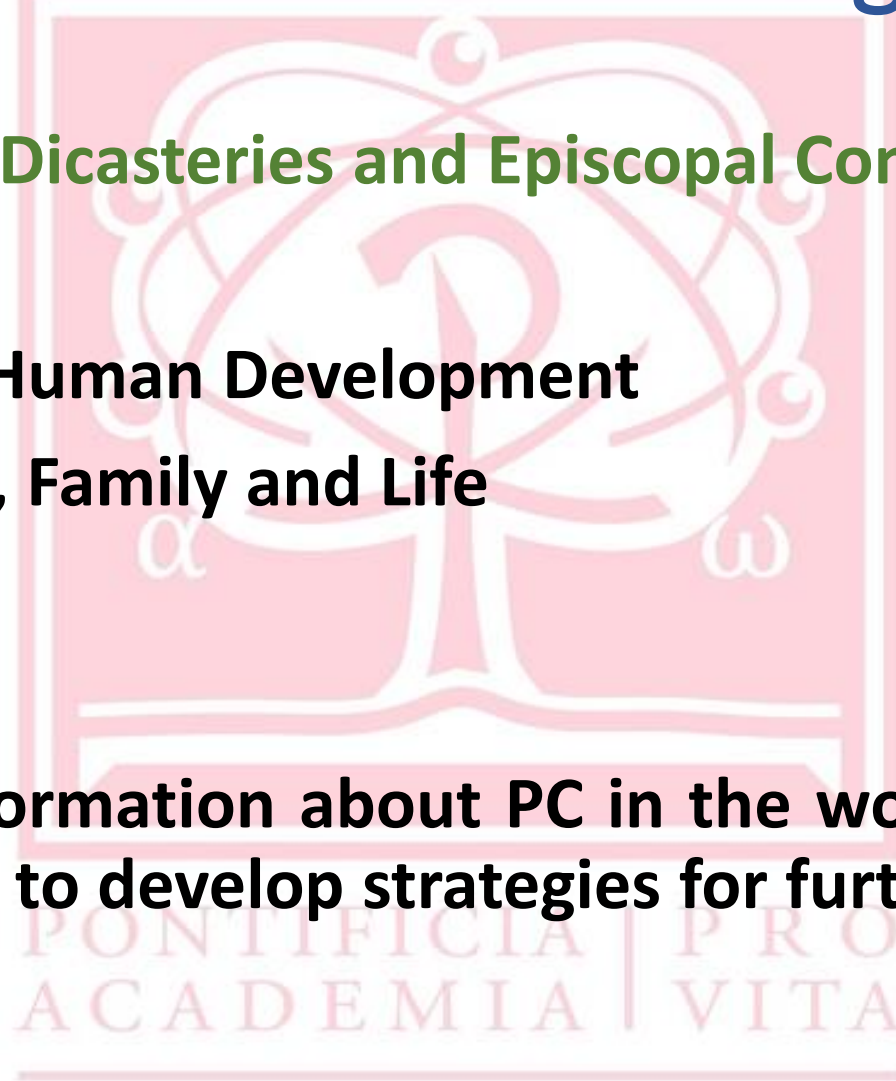
- **Co-operative venture with the CHAI to promote concrete implementation strategies for PC in Catholic healthcare facilities (driven by Dr. Rajagopal).**
- **Joint activity with Georgetown University in Doha and the PCU of the National Center for Cancer Care and Research at the Hamad Medical Corporation in Doha, Qatar (suggested by Dr. Alsirafy).**
- **Partnership to the cultural event on PC to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of ANTEA Foundation in Rome (Dec 14th, 2017).**
- **Exploring joint activity with Bishops of Canada.**
- **Cultural event to advocate for PC, at the Houston Methodist Hospital System.**

PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Involvement of Vatican Dicasteries and Episcopal Conferences

- **Dicastery for Integral Human Development**
- **Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life**
- **Secretariat of State**

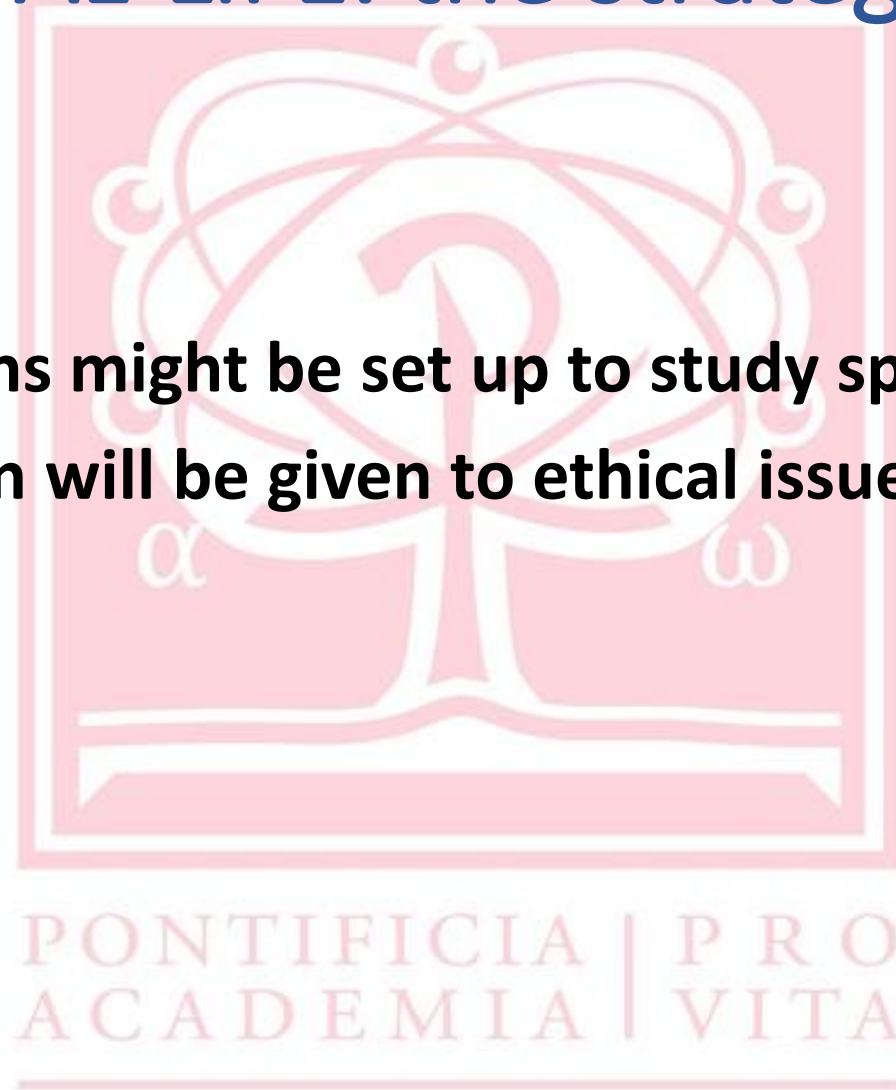
To provide accurate information about PC in the world, in order to enable the relevant Dicasteries to develop strategies for further introduction of PC.



PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Study Commissions

- Ad hoc commissions might be set up to study specific issues.
- Particular attention will be given to ethical issues.



PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Seminars

- “Integrating Spiritual Care into Palliative Care: A Whole Person Approach”, Christina Puchalski, 24th of August 2017.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WukTFZLIcBE>



PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Advocacy Activities

- **The Pontifical Academy for Life is willing to participate in events that promote PC.**



PAL-LIFE: the strategy

White Paper for Global PC Advocacy

- A document to be used by on-site personnel as a working document for the implementation of PC.
- One recommendation for each target stakeholder:

Samy Al-Sirafy	Pharmaceutical authorities
Eduardo Bruera, Daniela Musoiu	Policymakers
Carlos Centeno, Jin-Sun Yong	University (Academia)
Liliana de Lima	Pharmacists
Emmanuel Luiyirika	Professional associations and societies
Daniela Mosoiu	Mass media
Katherine Pettus	International organizations
Christina Puchalski	Religions, religious institutions, spiritual and ethics groups
M. R. Rajagopal	Hospitals and health care centers
Thomas Sitte	Patients and patients groups
Jin-Sun Yong	Health care workers
Mary Callaway	Philanthropic organizations and charities
Kathey Foley	Other professional associations and societies than Palliative Care

PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Public launch of the PAL-LIFE Project (2018)



PALLIATIVE CARE: EVERYWHERE & by EVERYONE. PC in every region. PC in every religion or belief

Where:

Vatican City

When:

February 28th and March 1st, 2018.

SAVE THE DATE

PALLIFE Project



PALLIFE

PALLIFE Project

First PALLIFE meeting

Spiritual Care: A Necessity

<http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/projects/pallife.html>

In our day, those human lives that, for whatever reason, are most characterized by weakness run the risk of falling victim to the “throwaway culture” that is ever more prevalent. Unfortunately, marginalization and diminishment of so many human beings is all too frequent. All merit our attention, but we need to recognize that weakness caused by serious illness or old age deserves priority consideration because it is in these circumstances that the culture of



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Thank you for your attention