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November 3, 2009

Dear Pastor:

This November offers a timely occasion for you to help share a universal message of hope and a celebration of life. There are opportunities for houses of worship throughout the country to help initiate decisions that can make a life-saving difference to thousands of people across the United States.

One of the true medical marvels of the last half-century is organ and tissue transplantation. Last year, more than 28,000 people received organ transplants and nearly one million received cornea or other tissue transplants, getting a second chance at life. But that good news is only half of the story. Sadly, over 104,000 others are awaiting a life-saving organ transplant – a number that is growing all the time.

With your help, we can change that. By helping your congregation designate their wishes and talk to their families about organ and tissue donation, you will save and enhance the lives of countless people.

National Donor Sabbath

November 13 – 15, 2009

A survey by the National Coalition on Donation indicated that 98% of Americans are aware of organ donation and 91% support it. However, only about one third of Americans have DONE anything to document their decision to DONATE LIFE. The survey also indicated that most people prefer to receive information about organ, eye and tissue donation from their organ recovery agency (like Mountain Region Donor Services) or from their church. This fact makes National Donor Sabbath doubly important. Houses of worship around the nation will be providing information about donation. THANK YOU for helping by including the enclosed Donor Sabbath insert as part of your worship service. Furthermore, your efforts will help the over 60% of people who support donation, but haven't documented their decision to move from AWARENESS to ACTION. And this ACTION will save lives!

I've included a brief outline that suggests a method of facilitating donor designation and a means for us to measure the outcome of our efforts and yours from Donor Sabbath. The Donor Sabbath insert to print in your bulletins is also included. Additional downloadable resources are available online at www.donatelifetn.org.

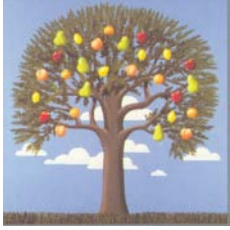
As you know, the faith community has an opportunity to make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of a great many people. Your congregation has the power to Donate Life. We thank you for joining us in sharing this important message.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberly Kennedy".

Kimberly Kennedy, Communications Specialist





NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH

Suggestions for Clergy

Understanding that many houses of worship are unique in order of worship and style, we have attempted to develop a Donor Sabbath outline that is flexible, yet accomplishes the opportunity for congregations to document their decisions to Donate Life and facilitates measuring the outcome of our Donor Sabbath efforts. Feel free to modify this outline to meet your needs.

Prior to worship service:

- I. Place bulletin inserts in worship service bulletins.
- II. Ensure pens are available in the pews.

At beginning of worship service:

- III. Welcome congregation and introduce National Donor Sabbath—drawing the congregation's attention to the insert in the bulletin.
 - a. Introduce any congregation members (if they are comfortable) who are donor family members, recipients or patients waiting for a transplant.
 - b. Explain that during the service at _____ time (i.e. during offering, sermon, Donor Sabbath PowerPoint slideshow or special music) baskets will be passed and the congregation will be asked to turn in their completed Donor Registration Form attached to the bulletin insert (please note—there are different forms for Tennessee and Virginia residents).
 - c. Encourage congregation to complete and submit the registration form.

During worship service:

- IV. At _____ time (i.e. during offering, sermon, Donor Sabbath PowerPoint slideshow or special music) remind congregation to turn in their completed Donor Registration Form and pass baskets for them to do so.
- V. Thank your congregation, on behalf of the over 104,000 patients waiting for a transplant, for giving the Gift of Life.

After worship service:

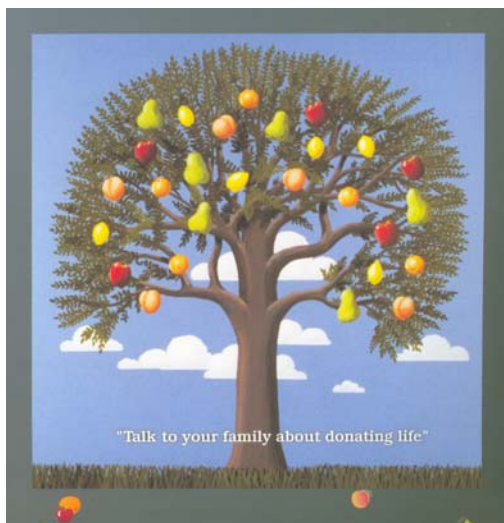
- VI. Collect completed Donor Registration Forms.
- VII. Mail forms and report to Tennessee/Mountain Region Donor Services at 110 KLM Drive, Suite 2, Gray, TN 37615.

In church newsletter: consider thanking the congregation for their commitment to saving lives and report to them the number of people who decided and designated their decision on Donor Sabbath.

THANK YOU for your time and help!

The Clergy's Role in the Organ and Tissue Donation Process

Overview by Charles H. Chandler, D. Min.



While serving as a parish minister in a major university city, the head coach for the university's men's basketball team was my neighbor. We became good friends, and I learned a lot about life, especially about teamwork, from observing his approach to coaching. Much of the success of the team was dependent upon each player fulfilling his role. All players did not excel in the same area. Some were

recruited for their shooting ability, some for their ball handling and some for their defensive potential. When each player learned his role and gave 100 percent to fulfilling that role, the team functioned like a "well-oiled machine," and it usually resulted in a winning season.

The clergy are part of the healing team:

Surgeons, primary physicians, nurses, medical technicians, procurement coordinators and clergy all have specific roles to play. Each profession's training and expertise are needed. The clergy is an essential member of the team for various reasons. Why?

They have a role as a spiritual leader:

The clergy person can clarify theological and ethical questions that the family may have. They can also provide comfort to the family by affirming their decision about donation. The clergy person's presence represents the presence of God. This, within itself, provides comfort.

They have a relationship to the family:

The congregational clergy person knows the family and usually will have earned their trust. They often look to him or her for guidance in making decisions at this time in their lives, being too frightened or too overwhelmed to stand alone. The clergy's responsibility is to the family. He or she becomes their advocate. Since the clergy person is often already with the family, he or she can restate and interpret what is being said by medical staff. The clergy is the member of the team with the most training in relating to the family.

They have an ability to create awareness:

Once clergy have educated themselves about the donation process, they can in turn educate their congregation so that members can make an informed decision about it. The clergy can address subjects such as organ and tissue donation in sermons, lectures, and in pastoral counseling. This helps prepare families in advance. Clergy can be attitudinal change agents. The clergy person may know the patient's wishes because of previous discussions with him or her. Sharing that information can ease the burden of the family's decision.

They have a relationship to the medical staff:

By working together, the entire team can develop trust and a spirit of cooperation, with all members learning their roles and carrying them out to the best of their abilities.

Most religions in the United States have issued formal statements in support of organ and tissue donation. To help save lives call Mountain Region Donor Services at 1-888-562-3774. Sign your donor card or drivers license, tell your family, save lives.

