

## Organ Donation: Act of Charity or License to Kill?

*"Organ donation, far from being an act of charity, may truthfully be the direct cause of death."*

*"People...must fully comprehend that when they agree to be organ donors, they give transplant surgeons a license to terminate their lives."  
(Bishop Bruskewitz, et al.)*

*"The Fifth Commandment, Thou shalt not kill, forbids us to kill, strike, wound or do any other bodily harm to [ourselves or] our neighbor, either of ourselves or by the agency of others..." (Catechism of Pope St. Pius X)*

### Did You Know?...

- Organs are "routinely" removed from persons who are still alive and may feel pain.
- Supposedly "dead" patients may have an increase in blood pressure while organs are harvested. These supposedly "dead" patients may even need to be anesthetized.
- At least one so-called "dead" person (e.g. a person considered "dead" by certain scientific/medical standards) was able to carry and sustain her unborn child for months (impossible for a truly dead person!) before it was delivered alive. Other supposedly "dead" persons have recovered (certainly impossible for those truly dead!).
- The medical community has a vested interest in declaring death as early as possible to ensure that organs harvested will be usable. In fact, they have / may want to keep pushing up the definition of "death". Remember that so-called "brain death" is not true death. Rather, this has been called an "invented term" so that organs can be removed from living persons. Such acts - e.g. the removal of necessary organs from living persons - are really homicides. Keep in mind that human life doesn't depend on one's brain (remember that brains are not even present at the initial stage of human life in the womb).
- The removal of vital organs from living persons causes death and violates the commandment of Almighty God: Thou shalt not kill. (Exodus 20:13) No such violation of God's commandments can ever be considered an "act of charity"; rather, such an act is a mortal sin.
- Regardless of scientific jargon, true death may not be certain until putrefaction occurs. True death cannot be measured by scientific instruments. *Note: Remember, death does not actually occur until the soul leaves the body. Such a state can not be definitively proven (and one cannot have "absolute certitude") until putrefaction occurs.* This is why a priest can be (and should be) called even after "apparent death" (e.g. when no signs of life whatsoever are present - e.g. no heartbeat, no brain activity, etc.). *"But the operation of death is plain and obvious: it is the separation of body and soul... Death, if it once falls short of totality in operation, is not death. If any fraction of the soul remain, it makes a living state.*

*Death will no more mix with life, than will night with day."  
(Tertullian)*

- Organ donation is "big business"--one in which demand exceeds supply.
- Those with a vested interest in organ donation may "play on emotions" of people whose loved ones are ill (e.g. by emphasizing that they may "save the lives of others") or even use pressure or guilt (note that many want to push organ donation as a "social responsibility").
- Medical staff may perform certain actions in connection with organ donation (or potential organ donation) which put patients at risk. Such actions may be accomplished without the knowledge or consent of patients or their families.
- Many involved in the organ donation process have been misled / misinformed. Many others have conflicts of interest.
- Donated organs may be handled disrespectfully and not accordance with the dignity due human beings, "temples of the Holy Spirit" (see 1 Cor 6:19).
- In some areas of the world, legislation has instituted "presumed consent" regarding organ donation - that is, they assume that a person wishes to donate organs unless they opt out. Such legislation may be expected to increase in the future.
- Technically speaking, persons who agree to donate their vital organs may be authorizing a form of suicide if the organs are removed before they are truly dead and if such removal causes their death.
- Objectively speaking, persons who agree to donate the vital organs of their loved ones who are not truly dead may be participating in the homicide of that person.
- Persons who receive organs from others who were killed as a result of organ donation "unknowingly (or knowingly) participate in the sins of another".

**Organ donation can only be good / noble if it is pleasing in the sight of God, and no violation of God's commands can ever be pleasing to Him. It is never licit to intentionally take the life of one person to save the life of another (or, more accurately, to postpone their eventual death).**

**Have you carefully considered the many dangers involved in organ donation? Have you signed an organ donor card? Have you told your family you wish to donate organs? Should you rethink your decision? If you change your mind, be sure to destroy / revoke your card and inform your family.**

*Note: Some organs may not be necessary for life. The appropriateness of donation of such organs is not specifically addressed herein. Also, rare cases in which God manifests signs of His own power (e.g. miraculous bodily preservation of saints' bodies) are also not treated herein. Furthermore, certain items above are "objectively speaking" and do not address the culpability of individuals in any given circumstance (e.g. certain cases of ignorance in which there was no intent to kill). Note that even cases in which guilt may not be imputed to certain individual(s), the nature of the act itself remains unchanged (e.g. it remains an evil to be prevented / avoided).*

## Want Your Wishes Regarding Organ Donation To Be Clear? Consider Using This FREE Wallet Card...

To use: (1) Print (durable paper is recommended), (2) Trim & fold (as desired), (3) Sign, date, and insert your name on applicable line, (4) Laminate (if desired), (5) Put in your wallet (or other applicable location) and keep a copy with your important papers.  
Reminder: Don't forget to inform your family.



# I am **AGAINST** Organ Donation

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NO ORGAN DONATION! NO ORGAN DONATION!**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, A ROMAN CATHOLIC, AM AGAINST ORGAN DONATION. ORGAN DONATION OFTEN REQUIRES THAT ORGANS BE REMOVED FROM PERSONS WHO ARE NOT TRULY DEAD AND THEREFORE IT CAUSES THEIR DEATH. SO-CALLED "BRAIN DEATH" IS \*\*\*NOT\*\*\* TRUE DEATH, BUT RATHER AN INVENTED TERM THAT ALLOWS ORGANS TO BE REMOVED FROM LIVING PERSONS. I AM WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGAINST THIS PRACTICE. DO \*\*\*NOT\*\*\* TAKE ANY OF MY ORGANS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE WHATSOEVER! *Thou shalt not kill. (Ex. 20:13)*

NOTICE: My family has been notified of my opposition to organ donation and has been instructed to sue anyone involved in any attempt to contradict my will as expressed herein & also to report any such persons to the proper authorities.

### **NO ORGAN DONATION! NO ORGAN DONATION!**

**Why not also provide your family and friends with this information & card?**

*Important Notice: The above does not intend to provide medical or legal advice. Consult a good doctor / lawyer for medical / legal advice.*

*Important Notice: Information herein is provided for informational purposes only and is not comprehensive. We make no guarantees regarding any item herein. Use is subject to our terms of use.*

www.MyCatholicSource.com / www.CatholicCommunityCenter.com  
(C) Copyright 2008, B. F. S. Permission granted to print and copy for non-commercial purposes (copyright notice must remain).