

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

October 25, 2006

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the weekend of November 10-12, Catholics and communities of faith across the country will observe National Donor Sabbath. This weekend is our special opportunity to call attention to the humanitarian commitment to donate life through organ and tissue donation. It is also a time to remember those who have given, received and await this gift of life.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is proud to join this important observance. I would like to remind all Catholics of the Church's support for organ donation and transplantation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and self-giving to which the Lord call us as his disciples.

I ask you to participate in National Donor Sabbath by focusing your attention on the Church's teachings and statements about organ donation and transplantation. You may also find it interesting and inspiring to know that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, is also a card-carrying organ donor.

During National Donor Sabbath weekend, please consider choosing in faith and love to give the gift of life by filling out a decision card, which is available through your pastor or at www.giftofhope.org. In Illinois, it is most important that those who have made this decision in the past recommit themselves to becoming life-giving donors through a new state donor registry that will ensure these important end-of-life wishes are honored.

The gift of organ and tissue donation proves beyond a doubt that out of tragedy one can bring hope, and out of death can come new life. Your observance of National Donor Sabbath demonstrates this power of faith to save and improve lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago