

March 13, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My mother died on August 16, 2013. She was sick with a rare progressive neurological disease called Corticobasal Degeneration. It affected her motor skills, her ability to walk, and swallowing. Her mind was sharp as a tack until the very end. She spent the last four years in a convalescent home close to home and my father visited her daily to care for her, to feed her, to wheel her around outdoors. They were a sign of true devotion and love to everyone who saw them. Their faith was very strong and it carried them through the difficult times, trusting in God for all things. As Catholics, we believe in the teaching of redemptive suffering. We believe God uses all things for the good, including sickness and suffering. To cut a life short to avoid suffering or pain is to mess with God's infinite plan for our redemption.

My mother was initially diagnosed with this disease 20 years before her death. When would have been a good time for her to decide to die? When she went into a wheelchair? She would have missed the marriage of her first grandchild and the birth of her second grandchild. When she went into the convalescent home? She would have missed the birth of her first great grandchild. Memorable events that she was able to enjoy.

The minutes before she died, we were playing her favorite song, "Don't cry for me Argentina" because she always said don't cry for me. She accepted God's will for her life with grace and humility. As the song played, we watched my mother's breathing visibly slow down and she took her last breath on the last note of this song. She died with dignity. God chose her time to die. Let's not play God.

Please vote no on assisted suicide.

Sincerely, Marie Pelletier

Marie Pelletier
35 Barber Hill Road

Broad Brook, CT 06016