



January 24, 2016
Weekly Bulletin
Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time

The Parish of Saint Vincent Ferrer & Saint Catherine of Siena

Dominican Friars – 869 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10065

411 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065

Call 212.744.2080 or visit www.svsc.info

MASS SCHEDULE

Saint Vincent Ferrer

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:30 PM Vigil

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM
(sung), NOON (solemn),
5:30 PM

Daily Masses

M – F: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,
6:00 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM

CONFESSION TIMES

M – S: 5:20 PM – 5:50 PM

Wednesday: 7:45 PM – 8:30 PM

ADORATION OF THE

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Saint Catherine of Siena

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:15 PM Vigil

(sung)

Sunday: 9:00 AM, NOON

(solemn), 5:15 PM (sung)

Daily Masses

M – F: 7:00 AM, NOON, 5:15 PM

Saturday: NOON

CONFESSION TIMES

M – S: 11:30 AM – 11:55 AM

4:40 PM – 5:05 PM

ADORATION OF THE

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sunday: 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Wednesday: 12:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday: 12:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Parish Contacts and Office Hours

Parish office address:

869 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Parish office hours:

Monday through Friday:

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

PARISH STUDY

Parish Study continues Tuesday,

January 26, 2016 at 7 PM in St.

Vincent Ferrer Parish Hall. Fr.

Innocent will speak on “Clergy,

Religious, and Laity in a Dominican
Parish.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PARISHIONERS

FROM THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

During fiscal year, 2015 you donated
to the New York Common Pantry the
following:

\$12,370 in cash during out
monthly collections

153 large bags of food during this
time

\$300 toward the Thanksgiving
Turkey drive

352 items toward the Christmas
toy collection

By helping to feed the hungry and to
bring joy to children, you have shown
such a generous spirit.

The dates of the coming food/money
collections for the New York Common
Pantry are: February 21, March 20,
April 17, and May 15.

May this wonderful work continue
through 2016.

MARDI GRAS - SAVE THE DATE

A Parish Mardi Gras Party, with
buffet dinner, music, and raffles, will
be held on Saturday, February 6th, at
6:30 PM, in St. Dominic Hall at St.
Catherine's. Tickets for the party,
which will be \$30 per person for
adults in advance (\$35 at the door)
and \$10 for children (children under
3 are free), will be available for
purchase after the weekend Masses, as
well as in the Parish Office at St.
Vincent's and St. Catherine's during
the week.

FOOD SUNDAY JANUARY 24

Today, Sunday, January 24, members
of the Social Concerns Committee
will be at the doors of the church to
collect food and/or monetary dona-
tions for the New York Common
Pantry. Please look for our committee
members if you wish to donate cash
or look for the Pantry's bin in the St.
Vincent Ferrer church vestibule.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today, Sunday, January 24, St.
Vincent's and St. Catherine's will be
seeking alms in a second collection
this weekend to help reduce the
parish's operating deficit. Thank you
for your support.

PARISH DIRECTORY AND INFORMATION

DIRECTORY

Parish Office: 212.744.2080
Fax: 212.327.3011

Parish Website:
www.svsc.info

Parish E-mail:
parish@svsc.info

V. Rev. Walter Wagner, O.P.,
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, O.P.,
Vicar

Rev. Jonah Pollock, O.P.,
Vicar and Associate Director
of DFHCMNY

Rev. Innocent Smith, O.P.,
Vicar

Bro. Damian McCarthy, O.P.
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers

Lee Ann Rubino
Business Manager

Lisa Harrelson
Director of Catechesis and
Youth Ministry
St. Catherine of Siena

Dolores Getcher
Child Education
St. Vincent Ferrer

Rachel Miller
Administrative Coordinator
and Assistant to the Pastor

Mark Bani
Music Director
St. Vincent Ferrer

James Wetzel
Organist and Choirmaster
St. Catherine of Siena

Mary Schwarz
Adult Education
St. Vincent Ferrer

Dominican Shrine of
Saint Jude Office:
212.249.6067

Dominican Shrine of Saint
Jude website:
www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.
org

DFHCMNY office: 212.988.8300

St. Vincent Ferrer High
School: 212.535.4680

Sr. Gail Morgan, O.P.
Principal

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF SAINT VINCENT FERRER AND SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our parish. Registration forms are available in the parish office at St. Vincent and St. Catherine. To become a parishioner, call the parish office at 212.744.2080.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Participation in a baptism preparation class is mandatory for infant baptism. Baptism preparation class is usually held at St. Vincent Ferrer on the second Friday of each month at 6:30 PM, and at St. Catherine of Siena on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please call the parish office at 212.744.2080 to register for this free class or for more information.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Refer to the cover of the bulletin for the schedule, or call to request an appointment.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Dolores Getcher at St. Vincent Ferrer, and Lisa Harrelson, the Director of Catechesis at St. Catherine of Siena. Typically, youth receive these sacraments during their second grade year. Contact Dolores Getcher at 212.861.2566, or Lisa Harrelson 212.988.8300, ext. 186 at St. Catherine of Siena for more information.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Dolores Getcher at St. Vincent Ferrer, and Lisa Harrelson, the Director of Catechesis at St. Catherine of Siena. Contact Dolores Getcher at St. Vincent Ferrer, or Lisa Harrelson at St. Catherine of Siena for more information.

Each Winter the "Upper Room" program prepares Catholic adults for Confirmation. Call the Parish office at 212.744.2080 for more information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements are to be made by calling the parish office at least six months in advance. It is necessary to book your wedding date with the parish office prior to booking a reception hall. Contact the pastor at 212.744.2080, for more information.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please notify the parish office if you or someone you know will be hospitalized or confined at home and would like to be anointed by a priest.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is an inquiry class for those interested in learning more about the faith, whether baptized or non-baptized, as well as those adults who desire to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. Please call Fr. Jonah at St. Catherine's at 212.988.8300, ext. 182, or Mary Schwarz at St. Vincent Ferrer at 212.734.9758 or email rcia.svf@gmail.com for more information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Religious education for Levels 1-5. For information and/or registration for classes held from September to May at St. Vincent Ferrer, please contact Mrs. Dolores Getcher at 212.861.2566.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St. Catherine's is a hands-on religious education program through which children learn about the Bible, Catholic Liturgy, and Sacraments. Please contact Lisa Harrelson, Director of Catechesis and Youth Ministry, at 212.988.8300, ext. 186, or lharrelson@stcatherinenyc.org, for more information.

Ignite Middle School Youth Ministry at St. Catherine's is a Confirmation formation and continuing religious education program for ages 10-14. Please contact Lisa Harrelson, Director of Catechesis and Youth Ministry, at 212.988.8300, ext. 186, or lharrelson@stcatherinenyc.org, for more information.

JOIN us IN PRAYER

SAINT VINCENT FERRER MASS *Intentions*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:30 pm (Vigil) † *Bayard G. Schaeffer*
8:00 am † *Mary Ann Corozzo*
10:00 am *For the People of the Parish*
NOON † *Natalie O'Brien*
5:30 pm † *Rene Concepcion*

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

The Conversion of St. Paul
the Apostle
8:00 am † *Louise & Richard Buckley*
12:10 pm † *Lucille Hickey*
6:00 pm † *Rita Fay Maturi*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

SS. Timothy & Titus
8:00 am † *Claro Avendanio*
12:10 pm † *Rose Malcolm*
6:00 pm † *Charles Kelley*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

Weekday
8:00 am † *William & Rose Marotti*
12:10 pm † *Richard & Garrett Keegan*
6:00 pm † *Joaquin Diaz*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P.
8:00 am † *Deceased members of the Parish
& the Order*
12:10 pm † *Marie & Jack Powers*
6:00 pm † *Thomas Francis Foye*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Weekday
8:00 am † *Reine Calvairac*
12:10 pm † *Jennie Starnella*
6:00 pm † *Charles Irby*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Weekday
8:00 am † *Grace Mensah*
5:30 pm † *Richard & Rita Murrie*

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA MASS *Intentions*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:15 pm (Vigil) † *Romulo Gamusaran, Sr.*
9:00 am *For the patrons of the Shrine
of Saint Jude*
NOON *For the People of the Parish*
5:15 pm † *Joseph P. Kenney*

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

The Conversion of St. Paul
the Apostle
7:00 am *For the Province of St. Joseph*
NOON *Rosanna Hakimata*
5:15 pm † *Nelida Menaglio*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

SS. Timothy & Titus
7:00 am *Jean Gerard Magloive*
NOON *For the intention of Sister
Elaine Goodell*
5:15 pm † *Plunkett Foye*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

Weekday
7:00 am *Geralde Magloire*
NOON † *Howard Francis*
5:15 pm *Thomas, Logan, Joyce, & Evans
Families*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P.
7:00 am *Betsy Ann James*
NOON *Sister Maureen Gleason*
5:15 pm *For the intention of Sergio Pagin*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

Weekday
7:00 am *Marion Dennison*
NOON † *St. Catherine of Siena Purgatorial
Society*
5:15 pm † *John F. Jordan*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

Weekday
NOON † *Raymond Langer*
5:15 pm † *Romulo Gamusaran*

PARISH PRAYER *Requests*

Contact the Parish Office at 212.744.2080
or e-mail info@stcatherinenyc.org to add
a name to this list.

*David Craig, Helene Cullen, Monica Farren,
George Flynn, Dolores Foster, Rev. Ferrer
Halligan, O.P., Rev. Chris Johnson, O.P.,
Carolyn Kelly, John Kelly, Sarah McDermott,
Stephen Osso, Vito Quatela, Ines Matias
Santa Cruz, Loulou Santa Cruz, Diana
Williams, & Gerald Williams.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE of
the souls of *Gina DePalma, Ronald Meyer,
& Fr. Linus Walker, O.P.*, and the souls of
all our recently deceased.

As is our mission, we continue to pray
for the sick, the dying, and their
families in *Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center, NewYork-Presbyterian
Hospital, the Hospital for Special Surgery,
and Rockefeller University Hospital.*

CANDLE *Intentions*

The seven-day candles, which burn in
the lamps before the tabernacle and the
Madonna at the entrance of the
sanctuary, and at the Pieta in St.
Vincent Ferrer are available for an
offering of \$15 each. These lamps are
both an act of devotion and a source of
beauty in our church.

SANCTUARY LAMPS -

ST. VINCENT FERRER

*Maria Luisa Barahona (d)
Rene Concepcion (d)
Ramon & Fernando Gonzalez (l)
Mary McCarthy (d)
William J. Schwede (d)
Intention of Donor
Special Intention*

SANCTUARY MADONNA

Jack Ryan Keegan

PIETA LAMP

*Well-being of Christians in the Middle
East*

The Sanctuary Lamp and the Blessed
Virgin Mary Candle at St. Catherine of
Siena burn for the intentions of any
parishioner or in memory of any of our
deceased. The offering is \$15.00 for one
week, Sunday through Saturday.

MASS INTENTIONS CAN BE RESERVED IN THE PARISH OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH
FRIDAY, 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM, AND IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OF ST. CATHERINE OF
SIENA MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM.

FROM FATHER WALTER, O.P., PASTOR

An Overview of Our Merger

This week, at the end of Parish Study, two people manifested some feelings of drift about the trajectory of our merger. Basically, they wanted to know where this is going. Certainly it's a reasonable concern. I had written some conceptual pieces about the merger, over the summer, but we have not rehearsed the outline of it since then. So, fair enough, and here goes.

On May 5, 2015, the Cardinal announced the merger of the Parishes of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Vincent Ferrer with the understanding that a single new parish will emerge from the process. As we have been teaching in Parish Study, a parish, like the whole church, is a community of souls. Forming such a community is therefore our primary responsibility.

- We will constitute a single community with two churches.
- The parish church for our new community will be the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer
- The new parish will also be served by a second church, the Church of St. Catherine of Siena, which will remain "open for Mass and sacraments."
- In some merged parishes, the second church has not remained open for ordinary use. Examples near us include Our Lady of Peace and St. John the Martyr.
- In two years, this arrangement will be reviewed.

On August 1, 2015, the two parishes were merged canonically to form the Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena. On September 1, 2016, they will become a new civil corporation with united finances. In the mean time,

- They remain separate civil corporations and they keep separate books
- Their collections are handled separately.
- Their funds are kept strictly separated.

We have this year to join the elements of parish life in a careful and deliberate fashion, and this process is underway.

•Parish Clergy

- We are establishing a united parish clergy. Fr. Walter Wagner, Fr Joseph Allen, Fr. Jonah Pollock, and Fr. Innocent Smith each say mass and hear confessions in both

churches. They are assisted by hospital chaplains Fr. David Adiletta and Fr. John Devaney. These Friars also say mass and hear confessions in both churches.

- Fr. Walter and Fr. Innocent also serve as Relief Chaplains for the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York.

•Administration

- A single Business Manager, Ms. Lee Ann Rubino, oversees the operations of both churches. Her responsibilities include oversight of physical plant, supervision of employees, management of income, and coordination of expenses.

- Parish Office operations have been centered at St Vincent Ferrer under the direction of Rachel Miller.

- Office hours for the convenience of the faithful are also maintained at St. Catherine of Siena.

•Formation

- Adult Formation was united in September of 2015 with the establishment of a joint Parish Study program to reflect on the nature of the Church and to establish principles to govern the practical implementation of the merger.

- RCIA programs remain independent for weekly sessions, but will be united for the rituals of initiation during Lent and Eastertide. We expect a fully integrated program next year.

- Religious Education for children remains separate, but we expect to form a united program in the fall.

•Common life

- The major communal liturgies and social gatherings of the parish year are shared between the two churches, except where the Parish Church has an assigned role, as in the Easter Vigil and the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

- The inaugural Mass involved both churches

- The Solemn Liturgy of All Saints Day was at St. Vincent Ferrer, while that of All Souls was at St. Catherine of Siena.

- The Solemn Mass for the Immaculate Conception was at St. Catherine of Siena, while Advent Lessons and Carols was at St. Vincent Ferrer.

- Solemn Mass for the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) and the Parish Mardi Gras will be at St. Catherine of Siena.

- Winter retreats for parish groups, Lenten Vespers, the Scrutinies will, as Parish Study, already does, alternate between both churches.

- Because of cost, to promote our unity, and to avoid any semblance of competition, we will not duplicate extraordinary celebrations.

- At the same time we need to safeguard the bonds of daily life, and to that there will be gatherings such as parish coffees, handled at the local level, at both churches.

- Governance

- The united Parish Council has begun to meet.

- Its initial project will be the registration drive for the new parish.

- The Finance Council for St. Catherine's has made its report to the parish for the last fiscal year.

- We will now develop a protocol for creation of a new Finance Council and a united financial structure.

- Our registration drive will yield a common parish roster and a united envelope system

- As part of the formation of the new parish we will need to commission Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

- Conversations Going Forward

- We will need to submit to the Cardinal three choices for the name of the new parish.

- Please Note! The names of the church buildings do not change.

- We will need to reflect communally on the role of music in our worship.

- This will begin with teaching on this subject in Parish Study.

- The next step will be a survey of the whole community.

- A job description for music director will result.

- This will take account of

- Community preferences

- Dominican spirituality and mission

- What the new parish can pay

- What assistance will be required given the final Mass schedule and other demands such as weddings and funeral.

- A search will ensue

I do hope this clarifies the movement upon which we have been launched. What things will be like for us this time next year, I surely cannot say. I live with the unknown daily and I must invite you to do the same. I would only offer my settled conviction that an unknown accepted for Christ's sake will not fail in blessings.

May your winter pass swiftly!

Peace!



Fr. Walter Wagner, O.P., Pastor

GROW *in* DISCIPLESHIP

DOMINICAN THIRD ORDER

The Dominican Third Order (Lay Fraternity) meets in the Parish Center, at St. Vincent Ferrer, on the third Thursday of each month, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. All are welcome!

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee plans and hosts numerous parish social events throughout the year, from monthly coffee hours after the 12 noon Mass, a parish Mardi Gras party, and much more! Call the Parish office for more information.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary works in union with Mary to evangelize the world and win it over to Jesus and His Church. All are invited. Meetings are held each Tuesday in the Parish Center at St. Vincent Ferrer, at 6:00 PM. Contact Joshua at 570.772.1333, and at St. Catherine of Siena each Thursday at 7:00 PM.

ST. VINCENT FERRER CHORALE

The choir provides a varied repertoire of classical, sacred music for the weekly 12:00 NOON Mass each Sunday and for various holy days throughout the liturgical year, as well as concerts. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Bani at markbani@gmail.com or 212.744.2080, ext. 16. Also, see our website, www.stvincentferrermusicnyc.com.

RECEIVING THE BULLETIN

Parishioners who are unable to come to church are being sent the Sunday Bulletin by the Hospitality Committee. If you know someone who would like to receive the Sunday Bulletin each week, please call the Parish office at 212.744.2080 and give their name and address to Rachel.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Committee invites you to join us in our Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena community outreach. Our mission is three-fold: host bingo games and holiday parties for the women living at the Park Avenue Shelter on Park Avenue and 67th Street (Thursday evenings); collect money and food once a month before and after Masses for the New York Common Food Pantry; and provide information for a specific cause (for example, homelessness or hunger) at an Advocacy Weekend once a year, with occasional follow up in the church bulletin. If you think you might enjoy working together to help those in need, please call the Parish Office at 212.744.2080 for more information.

VISITATION CIRCLE

Visitation Circle, "VC", is a group of single, divorced, and widowed women who come together for prayer, fellowship (manifested through various social and cultural events), and to offer mutual support to one another. For more information call the Parish Office.

A PRESENTATION OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY

On Saturday, January 30, the Corpus Christi Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society will close the Merton Centennial Year. Fr. Daniel Horan, OFM will speak on "The Christ of Thomas Merton & Julian of Norwich". Other speakers will discuss the women who shaped Merton's thought and spirituality, especially Baroness Catherine de Hueck Doherty and Sister Therese Lentfoehr. From 2 - 7 PM. Mass will be celebrated at 5 PM, followed by a Gala reception. Coprus Christi Church, 529 West 121 Street, New York, NY 10027. Free to Chapter members and students with i.d. Non-members \$10. For information call 212.666.9350 or write mertonnyc@yahoo.com. Website: thomasmertonsociety-nyc.org.

THANK YOU

*for your continued support of
Saint Vincent Ferrer and
St. Catherine of Siena!*

JANUARY 10, 2016

ST. VINCENT FERRER

*Deserving Poor Boys Collection:
\$6,691*

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

*Deserving Poor Boys Collection:
\$1,709*

JANUARY 17, 2016

ST. VINCENT FERRER

Regular Offertory: \$10,169

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Regular Offertory: \$4,740



DFHCM of NY

DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTH CARE
MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

THE ETHICS of END-OF-LIFE HEALTH CARE: *Medical and Non-Medical Care*

By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Associate Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

WHEN ILLNESS OR INJURY THREATEN to end our lives, or the lives of our loved ones, we may well find ourselves confronted with difficult decisions. Should we try this treatment or not? Should we try to resuscitate Mom? Should we withdraw life-support? How, in the specific situations of our lives, can we determine which life-sustaining measures are ordinary, and therefore obligatory, and which are extraordinary and non-obligatory? Put another way, how can we distinguish between life-sustaining measures that can't be omitted without willing to cause death, and those that can be omitted such that "one does not will to cause death; one's inability to impede it is merely accepted" (CCC 2278)?

IN SOME CASES THE ANSWERS WILL BE OBVIOUS. We must feed our children and bandage their wounds. Those are ordinary means of preserving life. We don't need to have our bodies cryogenically frozen in hopes that we might some day be resuscitated. That would clearly be extraordinary. But sometimes answers are not obvious. So how can we distinguish between ordinary and extraordinary means when the decisions we must make are difficult? We can do so by asking and answering three questions:

1. Is it a medical procedure or normal care?

This first question helps us determine the kind of lifepreserving measure we are considering. Is it a medical procedure that has the purpose of treating illness, whether from sickness or injury? Or is it a kind of care that would need to be provided whether the person was ill or not? This kind of care is what Pope St. John Paul II has called "normal care," the purpose of which is not to treat illness but to provide things like food and shelter that are always needed to sustain life and health. Pope St. John Paul II declared that provision of food and water, even by artificial means, should be considered normal care.

The purpose of normal life-sustaining care is simply to sustain life and health. Such care is necessary whether or not a person is sick. So when we evaluate the benefits of such care, we do so based on its capacity to sustain life, not on its usefulness in curing illness. Feeding someone, so long as the food is effectively providing nourishment, is beneficial. It does not cease being beneficial when the person who receives it becomes terminally ill.

Artificial nutrition and hydration are considered normal care. However, using a ventilator to support breathing is not. That

doesn't mean that either is necessarily right or wrong. It means that, as a medical procedure, the benefits of artificial ventilation will be identified in relation to its medical purpose, whereas the benefits of nutrition and hydration will be identified in relation to their purpose of providing life-sustaining nourishment.

2. What are the burdens and benefits?

This question has to do with the outcomes that are likely to result from the procedure or form of care being considered. Beneficial outcomes are those that fulfill the procedure's purpose. In the case of feeding, the successful provision of life-sustaining nourishment is counted as a benefit. In the case of ventilation, the successful treatment of illness is the benefit being sought. When illness is no longer treatable, even if life can no longer be sustained apart from ventilator-assisted respiration, use of a ventilator need no longer be considered beneficial.

The burdens we are considering are the undesirable outcomes of a given procedure. For example, the unwanted side effects of chemotherapy or the risks associated with surgical procedures. It is important to recognize that the burdens we are considering do not include all the undesirable features of a person's life. If someone suffers from depression, for example, that is not a good reason to refuse life saving heart surgery. The choice to forego life saving treatment, in that case, would not be about avoiding burdensome outcomes of the procedure, but about ending a burdened life. As much as we must sympathize with such a person, that choice would be suicidal.

3. Are the benefits proportionate or disproportionate to the burdens?

Once we have considered the burdens and benefits of the procedure or form of care in question, we must weigh them against one another. Sometimes this yields a clear, objective answer. When artificial feeding achieves the benefit of providing nourishment and only involves the burdens of having to periodically sanitize the tubes and change the bags, the benefit clearly outweighs the burdens. This form of care is therefore proportionate and an ordinary means of preserving life. Sometimes the answer is not so clear, as when a form of care involves both significant burdens and significant benefits. In these cases, the decisions may indeed be difficult, involving the careful weighing of many factors. When we face such difficult decisions, however, we can be confident that, by asking the right questions, we will arrive at ethically sound answers.