Continue Christ’s Ministry in our Franciscan Tradition

PALLIATIVE CARE

EMBRACING A BABY’S CHERISHED LIFE

RESOURCES

A Gift of Time: Continuing Your Pregnancy When Your Baby’s Life Is Expected to Be Brief
Amy Kuebelbeck & Deborah L. Davis

Waiting with Gabriel: A Story of Cherishing a Baby’s Brief Life
by Amy Kuebelbeck

I Will Carry You: The Sacred Dance of Grief and Joy
by Angie Smith

“She was a gift, and I am grateful, every day, that we allowed ourselves to receive it.”

—Alessandra, mother to Maggie, as quoted in A Gift of Time: Continuing Your Pregnancy When Your Baby’s Life Is Expected to Be Brief (Johns Hopkins University Press)

Perinatal Palliative Care Team
(765) 502-4626

For 24-hour emotional support, call Franciscan Hospice
(765) 423-6224 or (800) 755-5650.

Franciscan Health
FranciscanHealth.org
WHAT IS PERINATAL PALLIATIVE CARE?
Perinatal palliative care provides support and care to the family when a baby is diagnosed with a terminal condition. The palliative care team provides support to the families throughout their journey by providing medical, nursing, spiritual, emotional, social and bereavement care to families experiencing perinatal loss. The Franciscan perinatal palliative care team provides the comfort and services necessary to provide the baby with the best quality-of-life.

WHO IS ON THE PERINATAL PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM?
The team is made up of individuals who have been called to this line of work; specialists in caring for the terminally ill and their families. On your team you will have doctors, nurses, a pharmacist, home health aide, social worker and chaplain.

OUR MISSION
Grief is a journey that you don’t have to walk through alone. Our mission is to demonstrate the Franciscan values by honoring your family and child throughout this journey. Our bereavement counselor will continue to follow-up and serve as a source of support and help in coping with your grief.

OUR BABY HAS BEEN GIVEN A TERMINAL DIAGNOSIS, NOW WHAT?
When a terminal diagnosis is received, support is available including care planning and counseling. During this time, a detailed birth plan can be made that takes several things into account such as the type of delivery and goals for after the birth, including ways to create memories together. Pre-planning can also include wishes regarding baby’s medical care after delivery, insuring baby’s comfort, involvement from family and friends, keepsakes, photography and more. Each situation is different based upon the diagnosis and other medical factors.

WHAT SERVICES MAY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH PERINATAL HOSPICE/PALLIATIVE CARE?
As members of the Franciscan palliative care team, let us first express how sorry we are that what should be a joyous occasion, is now a preparation for a very brief life together for you and your baby. Let us help you prepare for your baby’s birth by surrounding you with a team of people whose focus is your baby’s comfort and care during his or her time with you.

If you are faced with the birth of a baby, who is only expected to live a very short time, we can help in a number of ways, including:

- Prenatal emotional, spiritual and medical support
- Support groups for parents, siblings and others
- Guidance in working with medical specialists
- Childbirth education and preparation
- Individualized, personalized birth plans
- Coordinating discharge from hospital with hospice support
- Helping creating memories, keepsakes, mementos and treasures
- Memorial service and funeral assistance
- Emotional and bereavement support
- Comfort management for baby