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# A Clergy Guide To End-of-Life Issues



A Clergy Guide to End-of-Life Issues

Martha R. Jacobs



## Synopsis

Jacobs, an ordained minister and a hospital chaplain for over 11 years, recognized in the ministerial profession a serious need for and lack of one comprehensive collection of tools to help both new and seasoned clergy guide congregants and their families through end-of-life issues. Gathering her experiences, skills, and insights, she developed the definitive death and dying resource for clergy and pastoral counselors.

## Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: The Pilgrim Press; 1st edition (April 30, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0829818596

ISBN-13: 978-0829818598

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #518,097 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #153 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Clergy](#) #524 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Death & Grief](#) #546 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Death](#)

## Customer Reviews

Jacobs has addressed one of the most important areas of pastoral care the need to help people and their families experience a good death ....helps clergy with the importance of a positive, hope-filled theology around an inevitable and at times blessed life passage. --Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, Senior Pastor, City of Refuge UCCThis book needs to be on every pastor s shelf, in front of the funeral manual. It will guide them through a maze of clinical questions and profound ethical concerns to find the grace that lies hidden in even the most unexpected of places. --Dale T. Irvin, President and Professor of World Christianity, New York Theological SeminaryJacobs has built a book that is accessible, insightful, and enormously helpful to clergy who want to improve their ministries to the dying, and that is to all of us. --David H. Smith, Director, Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics

Will provide even experienced clergy with more tools to help families navigate end-of-life issues and a graceful death. It will give guidance to ministers who are still struggling with personal,

professional, and spiritual growth around end-of-life issues. And, for those in pastoral training, it offers the foundational understanding about end-of-life issues so they can put their own issues around death and dying aside to assist others in charting their own course through life's end.

There are quite a few books out there about death and dying, and I've read most of them. This is one of the very best: clear, compassionate, comprehensive. Chaplain Jacobs draws on her extensive experience as a hospital chaplain working with dying persons to help us all serve dying persons in an informed and open-hearted way. Her chapter titles show how rich this resource is: Why are we afraid to die? Legal issues; Medical issues; Miracles and cures; Our own demons; Preparing for the end of life; Working with congregations; Knowing the options; Focusing on transformation. She has also done a terrific job of research and sets forth a wealth of materials in the Appendices in a concise, easy-to-use fashion. The book is only 164 pages long, and is easily read, but it is huge in content. My main criticism is the title: this book should NOT be limited to clergy but should be read by any intelligent, caring person who wants to be of genuine service to someone who is dying. Strongly recommended.

This book is great for clergy. I was looking for something to help in my convalescent visits.

If for nothing else, buy this book for the valuable appendices! Give it to every seminarian you love. It is exactly what its title says: a guide, filled with practical information rather than theological or theoretical discourse. It is quick and easy to use. It would be a blessing to any clergy person's library.

Excellent book. All clergy needs a copy in their reference library.

Very helpful

As a chaplain intern/student of pastoral care in a hospital setting, I only wish I had found this book sooner. It is invaluable as a concise, easy to understand education in advance directives. It is also an essential source of "handpuppet instruction" on what to do when someone has died or is actively dying, written in simple, compassionate language. It is a book that truly "goes there"

I have taught both palliative care & pastoral care courses to health professionals, caregivers and

volunteers and have read many books on the topics. This is the best, easy-to-use guide I have seen. It covers all the basics, from communication tips to ethical issues to spiritual concerns. My copy is now full of highlit notations, and I have just ordered 8 more to distribute to volunteer chaplains in the hospital where I work providing spiritual care.I would highly recommend this book.

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