

“The graceful gift of mercy”

Christian Perspective



St. Louis French Hospital, Jerusalem
Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition
Sr. Monika Duellmann
(2018)



St. Louis Hospital in Jerusalem
founded in the 19th century by
Congregation of the Sisters of
St. Joseph of the Apparition

Today ...

- ... 60 bed hospital for end of life care
for patients of all religions
- ... a Catholic Monastery
- ... with kosher kitchen
- ... integrated in the Israeli health system
- ... in a country with only 2% Christians



Geographically on the border between the Jewish New City (West-Jerusalem)



... and the Old City (East-Jerusalem)

On the **BORDER**

... between populations and religions in conflict, and between life and death ... called to be a **BRIDGE**

FAITH IN THE DIGNITY OF LIFE

*“You matter because you are you,
and you matter to the end of your
life. We will do all we can not only
to help you die peacefully,
but also to live
until you die.”*

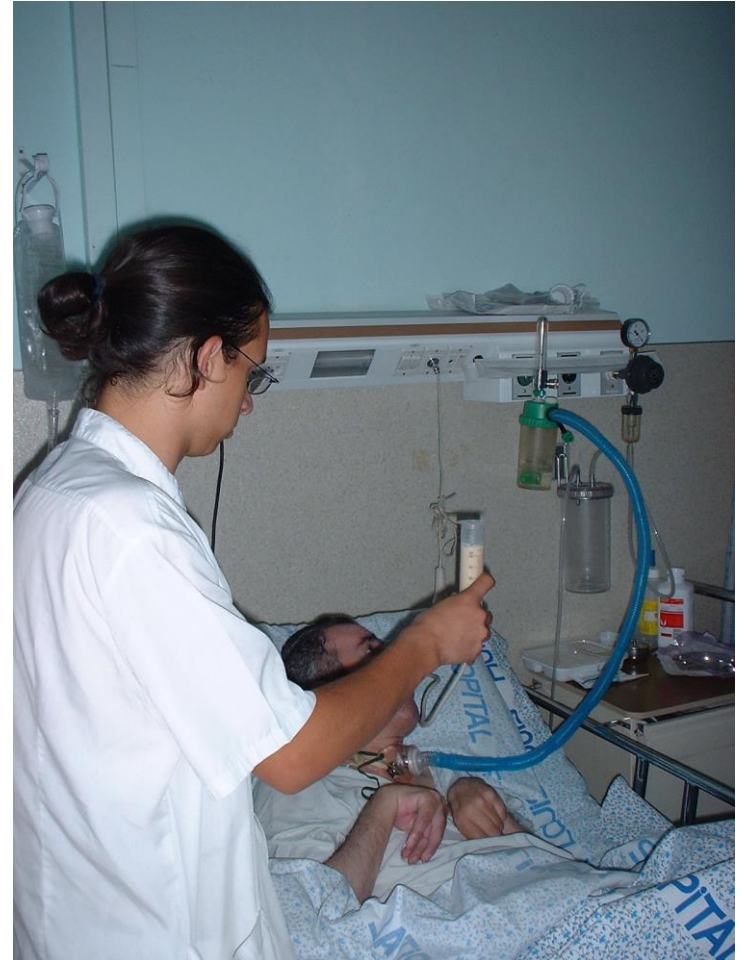
(Cicely Saunders)

Life is Holy

(from the conception to death)

because of:

- ... Creation (in the image of God)
- ... God’s Covenant with man
- ... Unique relationship of God with each person





**Length of
Life**

**Quality
of Life**

“In such a case (use of painkillers and sedatives), death is not willed or sought, even though for reasonable motives one runs the risk of it: there is simply a desire to ease pain effectively by using the analgesics which medicine provides.”

(Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, 65).

“It should be the goal of both the family and the designated care givers to insure, as best as they can, that the final days of a terminally ill person are spent reasonably free of anxiety, tranquil and aware to the extent possible. Integral to maintaining this type of condition is the administration of pain medication.”

(OCA vol. III 2010)

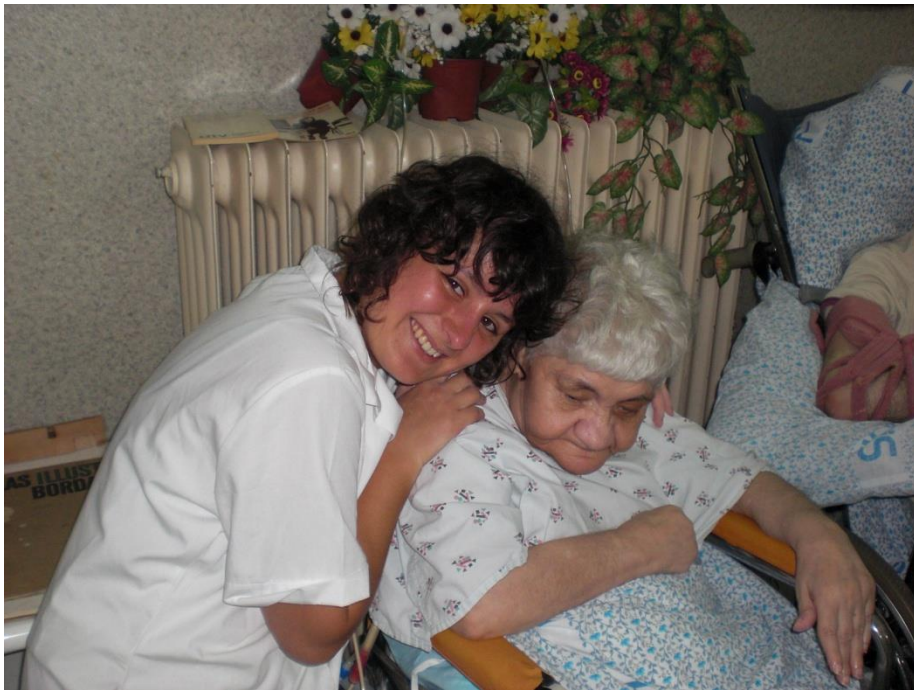
“Artificial Life Support (ALS) methodologies, when chronically used on a terminally ill and dying patient only serve to delay and prolong the dying process. The decision to remove all life support and to let a loved one pass into God’s hands, while very difficult and emotional, is necessary in order to allow the person to make his/her transition from this world to the next.”
(OCA Vol III, 2010)

(Altar in the
Chapel of
St. Louis Hospital
Jerusalem)



WITNESS OF LOVE

“Your lives may be the only Gospel your listeners will ever read.” (Dom Helder Camara)



*“... you do to me.”
(Jesus)*

“... what you do to the least of my brothers ...”

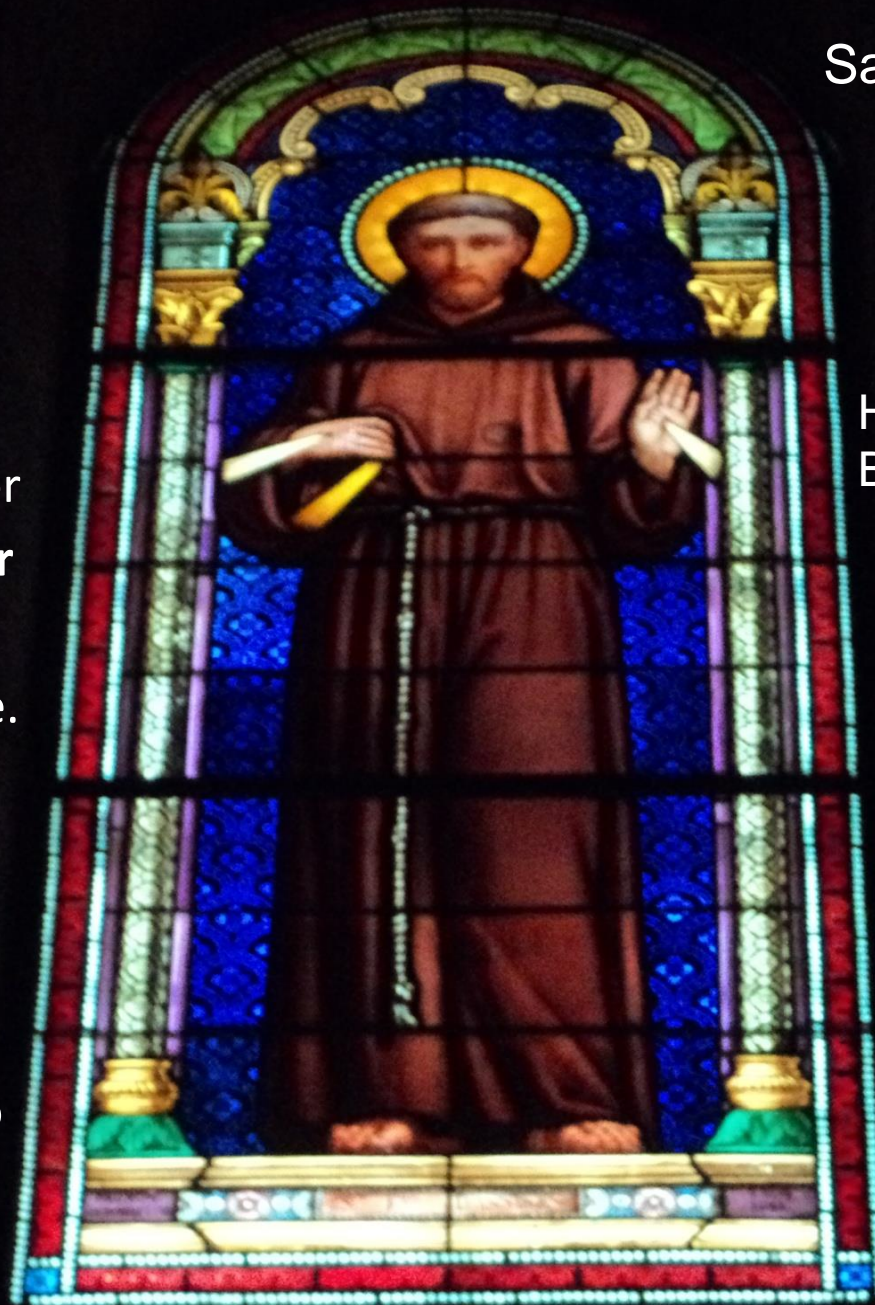


Saint Francis of Assisi

The Canticle of the Creatures

Be praised, my Lord, for
our **Sister Death (Sister
Bodily Death)**,
whom we must all face.

Laudato si mi Signore,
per **sora nostra Morte
corporale**,
da la quale nullu homo
uiuente pò skappare:



Heart transpierced by
Bullet (War 1948/67)

Window of
the Chapel
of St. Louis
Hospital
Jerusalem



SEED OF HOPE

*“There is a land of the living and a land of the dead,
and the bridge is love.”*

(Thornton Wilder, “The bridge of Saint Luis Rey”)





“My husband waited so eagerly for the coming of the Messiah. Is not this the messianic time, when people of all nations and religions live together in peace? By dying in your hospital, his hope was somehow a little bit fulfilled...”



*“There is a land of the living
and a land of the dead, and
the bridge is love.”*
