



# CHAI 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting

“Resources: Identify, Harmonize, Optimize”

September 23<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Kochi, India



## The PAL-LIFE Project

*An International Advisory Working Group on Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World*

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**Scientific Section**  
**(Vatican City)**

# OUTLINE

- **The Pontifical Academy for Life**
- **The PAL-LIFE Project:**
  - Background
  - Aim
  - Methods
  - Strategy



# Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV)

- Established by Pope John Paul II in 1994, for the promotion and defense of the value of human life and of the dignity of the person.

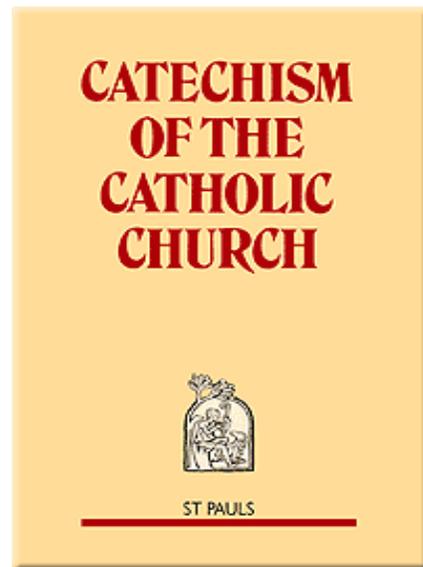


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- Academic Task
- Social Task
- Communication Task

# PAL-LIFE: the background

**Magisterium of the Catholic Church has intervened several times in recent years to emphasize the dignity and preciousness of each human being, even of those who are afflicted with a serious or terminal illness. Special appreciation is shown for the approach offered by PC.**



**«... palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity. As such it should be encouraged»**

**(Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2279)**

# PAL-LIFE: the background

**«Here it is necessary to stress once again the need for more palliative care centres which provide integral care, offering the sick the human assistance and spiritual accompaniment they need. This is a right belonging to every human being, one which we must all be committed to defend»**

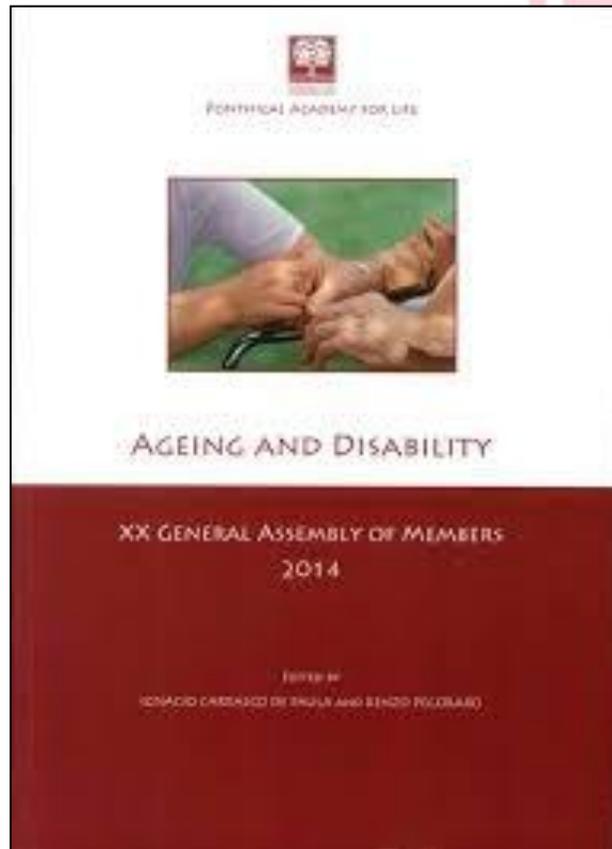
**(Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the 15<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick, 11 February 2007)**

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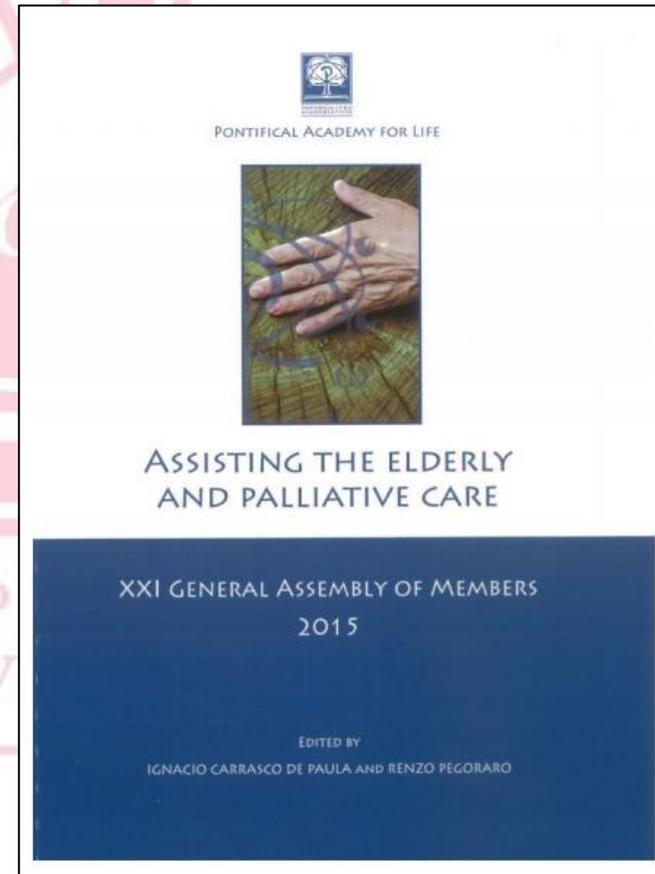


# Two recent PAV General Assemblies

**“Aging and Disability”  
(2014)**



**“Assisting the Elderly and Palliative Care”  
(2015)**



# PAL-LIFE: the background

**«Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. [...] I encourage professionals and students to specialize in this type of assistance which is no less valuable for the fact that it “is not life-saving”. Palliative care accomplishes something equally important: it values the person»**

**(Pope Francis, Message to the XXI General Assembly of PAV, 5 March 2015)**

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# PAL-LIFE: the aim

- To stimulate the social and cultural attention on the reality of PC and to promote, at different levels, the dialogue and cooperation between the various stakeholders in the realization of concrete projects of PC.

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# PAL-LIFE: the method

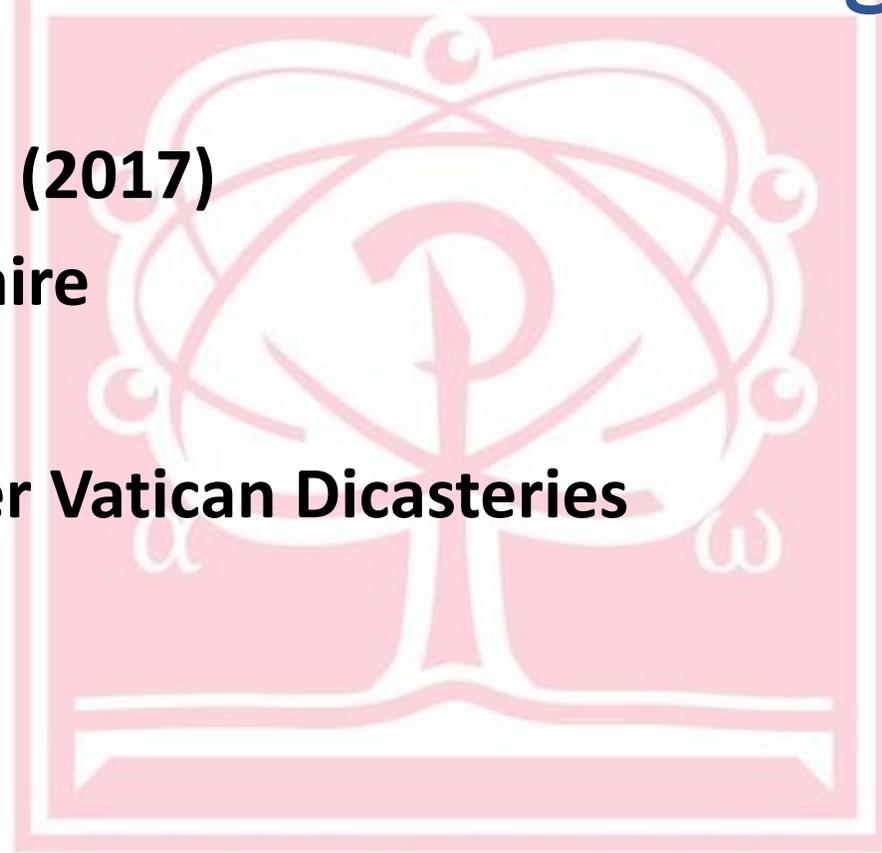
- To promote greater sensitivity in ecclesial realities toward the need to develop good PC in different areas of the world.
- To stimulate the attention by non-ecclesial institutions, NGO's and association working with similar aim.
- To act as an interlocutor for academic and scientific institutions.

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# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

- **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting PAL-LIFE (2017)**
- **PAL-LIFE Questionnaire**
- **Regional events**
- **Involvement of other Vatican Dicasteries**
- **Study Commissions**
- **Seminars**
- **Advocacy Activities**
- **White Paper for global PC advocacy**
- **Public launch event of the PAL-LIFE Project (February 2018)**



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# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting PAL-LIFE

Vatican City, March 31 – April 1, 2017

- It focused on barriers and opportunities for the diffusion and development of PC in the world.
- The proceedings will be printed and online, translated into several languages.



# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting PAL-LIFE

JOURNAL OF PALLIATIVE MEDICINE  
Volume XX, Number XX, 2017  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/jpm.2017.0237

Letter to the Editor

### “PAL-LIFE Project: International Advisory Working Group on Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World” — First Meeting Report

Nunziata Comoretto, MD, PhD

**T**HE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE (Vatican City) has recently launched a new Project on the care for the dying, called “PAL-LIFE: International Advisory Working Group on the Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World.” During the first meeting, which was held in Rome on March 31 and April 1, 2017, the partici-

health systems, is considered an important step on to urge member states to develop PC policies (M. Rajagopal).

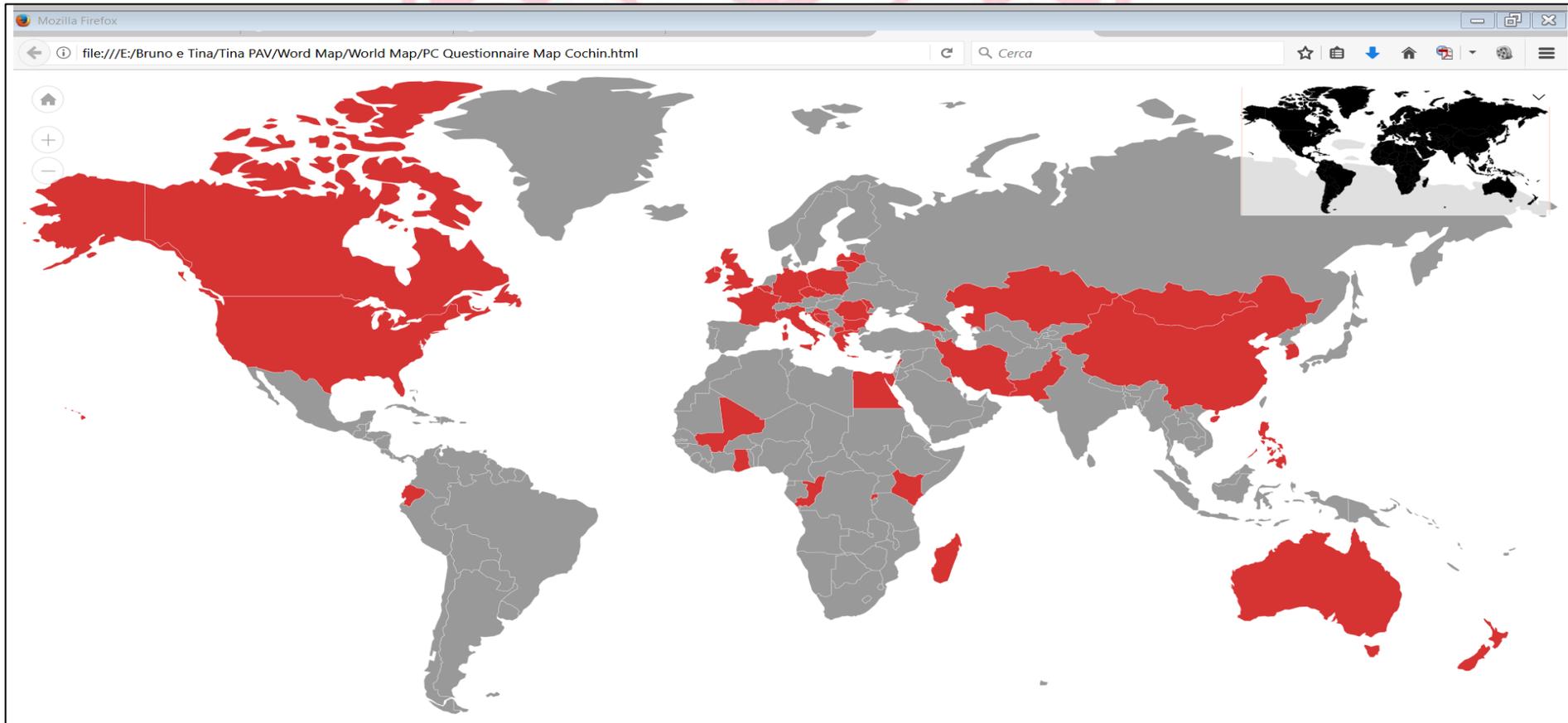
The biggest obstacle to the development of PC programs globally is the lack of awareness of their existence and specificity. This “ignorance” affects all stakeholders—ordinary citizens, media that provide information about end-of-life is-

<https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2017.0237>

# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## PAL-LIFE Questionnaire

**Intended to gather information about the medical, social and cultural realities of PC in a Catholic context.**



# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## Regional events: Objectives

- To promote cooperation with governmental entities.
- To promote professional PC training through on-site programs and international cooperation.
- To promote a culture of inclusion.

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# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## Regional events: Current activities

- **Co-operative venture with the CHAI to promote concrete implementation strategies for PC in Catholic healthcare facilities (driven by Dr. Rajagopal).**
- **Joint activity with Georgetown University in Doha and the PCU of the National Center for Cancer Care and Research at the Hamad Medical Corporation in Doha, Qatar (suggested by Dr. Alsirafy).**
- **Partnership to the cultural event on PC to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of ANTEA Foundation in Rome (Dec 14th, 2017).**
- **Exploring joint activity with Bishops of Canada.**
- **Cultural event to advocate for PC, at the Houston Methodist Hospital System.**

# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## Involvement of Vatican Dicasteries and Episcopal Conferences

- **Dicastery for Integral Human Development**
- **Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life**
- **Secretariat of State**

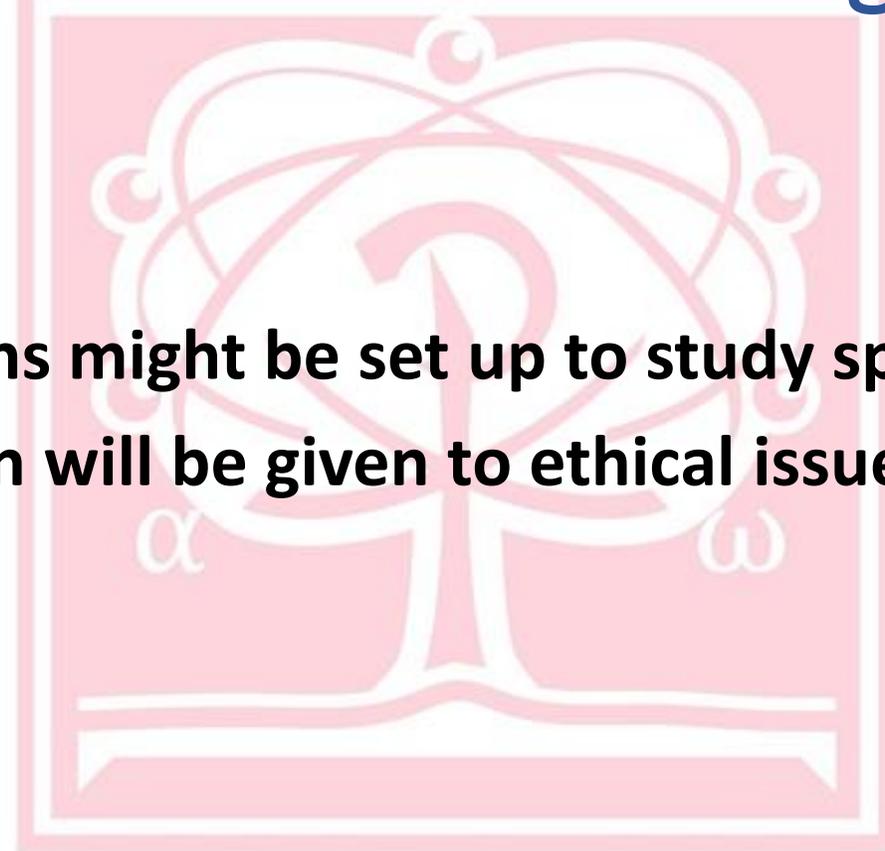
**To provide accurate information about PC in the world, in order to enable the relevant Dicasteries to develop strategies for further introduction of PC.**

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# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## Study Commissions

- Ad hoc commissions might be set up to study specific issues.
- Particular attention will be given to ethical issues.



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# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## Seminars

- **“Integrating Spiritual Care into Palliative Care: A Whole Person Approach”, Christina Puchalski, 24th of August 2017.**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WukTFZLIcBE>



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# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## Advocacy Activities

- **The Pontifical Academy for Life is willing to participate in events that promote PC.**



# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

## White Paper for Global PC Advocacy

- A document to be used by on-site personnel as a working document for the implementation of PC.
- One recommendation for each target stakeholder:

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Samy Al-Sirafy                 | Pharmaceutical authorities   |
| Eduardo Bruera, Daniela Musoiu | Policymakers   |
| Carlos Centeno, Jin-Sun Yong   | University (Academia)  |
| Liliana de Lima                | Pharmacists  |
| Emmanuel Luiyirika             | Professional associations and societies                            |
| Daniela Mosoiu                 | Mass media   |
| Katherine Pettus               | International organizations  |
| Christina Puchalski            | Religions, religious institutions, spiritual and ethics groups     |
| M. R. Rajagopal                | Hospitals and health care centers                                  |
| Thomas Sitte                   | Patients and patients groups                                       |
| Jin-Sun Yong                   | Health care workers  |
| Mary Callaway                  | Philanthropic organizations and charities                          |
| Kathey Foley                   | Other professional associations and societies than Palliative Care |

# PAL-LIFE: the strategy

Public launch of the PAL-LIFE Project (2018)



**PALLIATIVE CARE: EVERYWHERE & by EVERYONE. PC in every region. PC in every religion or belief**

**Where:**

**Vatican City**

**When:**

**February 28th and March 1st, 2018.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

## PALLIFE Project



## PALLIFE

### PALLIFE Project

First PALLIFE meeting

Spiritual Care: A Necessity

<http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/projects/pallife.html>

In our day, those human lives that, for whatever reason, are most characterized by weakness run the risk of falling victim to the “throwaway culture” that is ever more prevalent. Unfortunately, marginalization and diminishment of so many human beings is all too frequent. All merit our attention, but we need to recognize that weakness caused by serious illness or old age deserves priority consideration because it is in these circumstances that the culture of



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**Thank you for your attention**