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**Date:** May 11, 2020  
**To:** Pastors, clergy and respect life leaders  
**From:** Joey Martineck, Director, Respect Life Ministry  
**Re:** COVID-19, the elderly and advance directives

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I would like to announce that the Georgia Advance Directives for Health Care in conformity with Catholic teaching are available in English and Spanish on the Respect Life Ministry site: <https://archatl.com/ministries-services/respect-life-ministry/end-of-life-issues/>

I also strongly urge pastors, priests, deacons and all the faithful, by virtue of their baptismal share in Christ's pastoral mission, to make continual outreach to the elderly during this time of crisis. Because they are more at risk, many elderly have been isolated to the small rooms of nursing homes with little to no human contact. While technology has enabled much of the world to stay connected, this is not always the case with the elderly who may have trouble operating a simple cell phone.

Though we are limited in many regards, we must allow the Lord's love to fuel our hearts toward creative approaches to reaching the elderly. Here are a few examples:

- Phone/video calls
- Letters (with pictures)
- Sending care packages
- Mailing easy to read books, puzzles or activity books
- Praying with the elderly (i.e. Our Father, Hail Mary, etc.)

In these challenging times, let us rely on the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who "though he was rich, yet for your sake became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).