

National Donor Sabbath

November 11-13, 2016

"TO REMEMBER ME" CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Candlelight Ceremony for Organ & Tissue Donation

This is a recommended ceremony to show the importance of organ and tissue donation, honor organ and tissue donors, donor families and the process that families go through for organ and tissue donation.

This scenario takes less than five minutes and has been very effective in many settings.

Location: Place of worship

Silence: 19 people each hold a lit candle walk to the front and line up side by side facing the audience. They stand still while a person reads poem:

To Remember Me

The day will come when my body will lie upon a white sheet neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and the dying. At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the Bed of Life, and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his children play.

Give my kidneys to the one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weakness and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil. Give my soul to God.

If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you.

If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

~Robert N. Test

Announcer:

"Today, 19 people will die waiting for a life-saving organ transplant."

Each person blows out candle.

"If you have not signed up as an organ and tissue donor, we have registry enrollment brochures available today. Please sign up to save someone's life."

Candle holders exit