

## Promotion of euthanasia

Vladimir Zastava from the Communications Department of the Horshenin Institute at press conference dealt with the question of the attitude of Ukrainian society towards death. A manipulating article on this subject from 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011 carries the following headline: *“One third of Ukrainians is in favour of restoration of death penalty and is not against legalization of euthanasia”* (Greek-Catholic portal RISU). To set euthanasia beside repulsive death penalty so as to make euthanasia not seem so dreadful is criminal manipulation.

The article promotes euthanasia – suicide. When dealing with the question of death, one has to deal with the question of the moment of death, too, which is associated with God’s Judgement, and with eternal suffering in hell in the case of many. Ukraine has a millennial Christian tradition. Christians are aware that suicide is the most tragic way of death. An example serving as a warning is apostle Judas who hanged himself, and God’s Word calls him the son of perdition – the son of hell. It was common practice not to bury self-murderers in the cemetery with other people. Since they had decided to commit suicide, they died in grave sin, rejected God’s mercy and plunged in unbelief and despair fell directly into eternal damnation. These true attitudes have been rooted in the consciousness of the Ukrainian people for centuries. Now, when all moral and spiritual values are being destroyed, there are efforts to suggestively present the crime of suicide as something good. The promoters of euthanasia appeal to false mercy, saying that man may be relieved from suffering when killed. The reasons for euthanasia which they give are a serious illness or just temporary depression, or sometimes there is no reason needed. Quotation from the article: *“Every sixth Ukrainian thinks that physician-assisted suicide – euthanasia – can be performed at the request of any person without explanation of the reasons for such decision.”* This statement inculcates an idea that it is possible to kill anyone at any time. We witness a revolution in medicine. A physician, who is to protect life, now becomes a mass executioner. When a patient dies in hospital, it is followed by autopsy and the cause of his death must be determined. In case of euthanasia, however, there is no need to determine the cause of death. **It is an uncontrollable way of killing people.** Especially people who have money or a high position will be seriously endangered by euthanasia.

True Christianity emphasizes that human suffering can purify the soul here on earth and that one can sacrifice it for the conversion and salvation of others. For example, Joni Eareckson from USA has been completely paralysed for 40 years. She can only move her head. And yet over a telephone helpline she saved not only the earthly but, much more importantly, the eternal life of many people. This woman, just like many other physically disabled people, enjoys inner peace and her suffering which she unites with the suffering of Christ has a deep meaning. Similarly, families which care

with Christian charity for a disabled child, or for their old or sick parents, receive abundant spiritual blessing owing to their suffering and self-sacrificing love.

Through amendments to the laws, international organizations such as the UN, PACE, EU or WHO impose a policy of disintegration of the family and of all moral values on the whole world. These values are being eliminated through monotonous, decadent music, pornography, various forms of occultism – homoeopathy, alternative medicine or divination, through the cult of violence, perversion, homosexuality, paedophilia, transsexualism, gender schizophrenia, use of narcotics, sexual antieducation of children and youth, cynicism, egoism, piracy committed on children by the juvenile justice system and sale of children to paedophiles and homosexuals within the system of so-called international adoption. The culmination is promotion of euthanasia, which in a split second casts the souls into eternal suffering in hell.

Another manipulating statement in the article is that only 37% of the Ukrainian population is against euthanasia, while 63% favour it. It is a public deceit.

The article is hypocritically silent not only on the Christian view but also on **application of euthanasia** for the purposes of mass killing of innocent people. *Statistics from Belgium: 120 out of 248 nurses under survey admitted their assistance in euthanasia, in the killing of undesirable people.* Another crime connected with euthanasia is the killing of people in order to obtain their organs. According to the words of Belgian physicians, the body organs of these people immediately after euthanasia are still usable.

Many young people today are under mental stress and hence exposed to suicidal temptation. In the Netherlands, minors over 16 have the “right” to choose euthanasia (suicide) without the knowledge of their parents. There is almost no one today who would explain to the youth the true meaning of life and the value of suffering. Apostatical Christianity is silent on crimes that are perpetrated not only in the world but even in the Church. What is more, it conceals and approves them. This is evidenced by paedophilia and homosexuality among the clergy. The essential truths of salvation have been replaced by heresies and the following of Christ by pious phrases.

The purpose of the RISU article is to inculcate young Christians with the view that nowadays euthanasia ranks among European and international standards and so-called values. It means that it is something prestigious, something that Ukraine should accept with uncritical trust. In fact, it is planned suicide – autogenocide of Ukraine, not only moral and spiritual but now even physical one.

The article talks about restoring the death penalty for criminals as well as about legitimization of euthanasia. This is manipulation. It boldly proposes punishment of death e.g. for grave crimes against a person, for paedophilia, for propagation and production of narcotics, for embezzlement of public funds. The following paragraph then enumerates various types of and reasons for euthanasia.

One can handle euthanasia far more than death penalty, since the latter is connected with trial and defence. In addition, death penalty does not deprive a person of the chance of repentance and salvation of the soul. Euthanasia is suicide, and apart from that the practice of euthanasia leads to the killing of innocent people without trial, without witnesses and without any control. In contrast, public punishment of death for grave crimes is the most effective method to stop crime in the nation.

In fact, the agents of death who covertly promote euthanasia in Ukraine just implement the so-called international standards of the UN, PACE, WHO and EU. Ukraine is bound by PACE Resolution No. 1763, which established euthanasia for all member states of the Council of Europe as so-called legal health care in 2010.

If Ukraine accepts these new “values” as the highest standard, she renounces conscience and God and passes a sentence of death upon herself. These new “international standards”, enshrined in charters and conventions which Ukraine accepted as binding, are contrary to natural, moral and spiritual laws and basically they are crimes against man and against humanity. Those who accept international grants at the price of betrayal of the nation will end up like Judas. He received money for the betrayal of Christ, and finally committed suicide and ended up in hell.

**The only solution for Ukraine is to stand up bravely against this spirit of death, even at the cost of international sanctions. If Ukraine does so, after short suffering she will see spiritual resurrection of the Ukrainian nation and become an example for the salvation of other European nations!**

For God and for Ukraine!

On behalf of the Byzantine Catholic Patriarchate

+ Elijah  
Patriarch

+ Methodius OSBMr    + Timothy OSBMr  
Secretaries of the BCP

Lvov (Ukraine), 18 October 2011

Cc:

- President of Ukraine
- MEPs
- Presidents of EU member states