



## What People Are Saying About *A Clergy Guide to End-of-Life Issues*

- ❖ “Jacobs has addressed one of the most important areas of pastoral care – the need to help people and their families experience a ‘good death’....helps clergy with the importance of a positive, hope-filled theology around an inevitable and at times blessed life passage.”—Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, Senior Pastor, City of Refuge UCC
- ❖ “Among many appropriate descriptors of this book – thorough, well-informed, accessible, compassionate, wise – first on the list is ‘essential’. Seminary students should study it together, and it should be presented to clergy as a vital component of their continuing education.”—Margaret E. Mohrmann, M.D., Ph.D., University of Virginia
- ❖ “This book needs to be on every pastor’s shelf, in front of the funeral manual. It will guide them through a maze of clinical questions and profound ethical concerns to find the grace that lies hidden in even the most unexpected of places.”—Dale T. Irvin, President and Professor of World Christianity, New York Theological Seminary
- ❖ “Jacobs has built a book that is accessible, insightful, and enormously helpful to clergy who want to improve their ministries to the dying – and that is to all of us.”—David H. Smith, Director, Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics
- ❖ “I forwarded the book review for Martha's book to our conference ministerial studies office. This is the office that determines the curriculum for candidates for ministry, which is a three-year process. I highly recommended this book as one that they read and that I would be willing to lead the discussion when it is discussed. Haven't heard back, but if others of you have a similar process in your denomination, this would make a good book for it.”—Rev. Dr. Mark LaRocca Pitts, BCC, Methodist Minister
- ❖ “The support staff of Homeside Hospice in New Jersey participated in the Prayerful Discernment Process. They give the process excellent marks for providing a space to reflect on their own feelings on death and dying. The support staff plan to make some adjustments to the process for their specific hospice environment and then offer it to the entire Homeside staff. Homeside Hospice is a private hospice owned and operated by nurses to provide quality care for patients ([www.homesidehospice.com](http://www.homesidehospice.com)).” Chaplain John Mills
- ❖ “...Death is a powerful part of our living. It is something we all do. This work brings to the fore relevant and needed dialogue concerning End-of-Life Issues....Jacobs understands that most clergy successfully have avoided asking themselves the hard questions about how they feel about dying and

death....Jacobs demystifies many technical terms that are part of the jargon of End-of-Life decision making, such as Advanced Directives, Living Wills, Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) Orders, Do-Not-Intubate (DNI) Orders, Capacity vs. Competence...Alongside this she explains what one might see when someone is Actively Dying, and then considers such issues as Pain Control, Artificial Nutrition and Hydration, Brain Death...A valued resource for clergy as they deal with End-of-Life issues with their congregations...This well-crafted and attractively presented book is framed toward Christian, and more specifically Protestant clergy, but it has wide applications, and with a bit of effort, it will be useful for clergy across the board. —[Rabbi Dr. David Zucker review in \*PlainViews\*](#)

- ❖ There are quite a few books out there about death and dying, and I've read most of them. This is one of the very best: clear, compassionate, comprehensive. Chaplain Jacobs draws on her extensive experience as a hospital chaplain working with dying persons to help us all serve dying persons in an informed and open-hearted way. Her chapter titles show how rich this resource is: Why are we afraid to die? Legal issues; Medical issues; Miracles and cures; Our own demons; Preparing for the end of life; Working with congregations; Knowing the options; Focusing on transformation. She has also done a terrific job of research and sets forth a wealth of materials in the Appendices in a concise, easy-to-use fashion. The book is only 164 pages long, and is easily read, but it is huge in content. My main criticism is the title: this book should NOT be limited to clergy but should be read by any intelligent, caring person who wants to be of genuine service to someone who is dying. Strongly recommended. —[Anonymous reader on \*Amazon.com\*](#)
- ❖ New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care: <http://www.zencare.org>.