Holy Week Checklist

In the dawning light of Easter we hardly wince to acknowledge that our earthly journeys will one day come to an end. Besides making each passing day more precious, this realization also prompts us to take steps to express our love for those we leave behind. Here is a checklist of six items that we owe it as stewards to Our Lord-- as well as to others-- to complete:

1. <u>Advanced Healthcare Directive (Power of Attorney for Healthcare and Living Will)</u>—so that when we are incapacitated, it's clear to doctors, family and friends who we wish to make medical decisions for us. Also, so that others may see in writing from us our clear wishes regarding circumstances in which we do not wish our lives to be artificially prolonged.

2. <u>Power of Attorney for Finances</u>—so that someone can step in and pay our bills and manage our affairs when we cannot.

3. <u>Will or Trust</u>—so that our earthly goods are distributed as we would have them distributed. This also requires being intentional regarding beneficiaries of retirement plans and insurance policies as well as titling of property and accounts. (See *Book of Common Prayer*, page 454, regarding bequests.)

4. <u>Funeral or Memorial Arrangements</u>—so that our survivors and priest may know our wishes not only for disposition of our mortal remains but also the content of the worship service celebrating our life.

5. <u>Final Instructions For Family and Friends</u>—so that our immediate survivors can locate our vital papers including deeds, insurance policies, bank, investment and retirement accounts as well as our wishes regarding final arrangements.

6. <u>Ethical Will</u>—so that our closest survivors may hear words from us of what they have meant to us as well as our hopes for them and for our world.

For more information and helpful forms, call the Diocese of California Gift Planning Office at (415) 869-7811. We will be happy to assist you.

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