



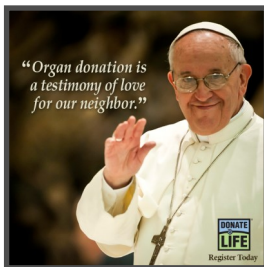
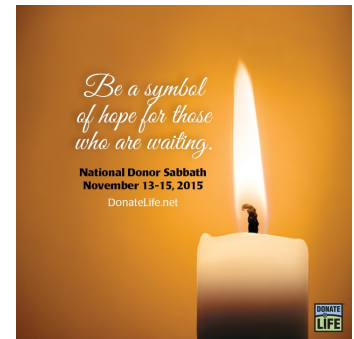
The Alliance
LEADERSHIP IN ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

EDUCATION CORNER

NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH

November marks National Donor Sabbath month. More specifically, November 13 - 15 is National Donor Sabbath. Faith-based communities and houses of worship around the country observe Donor Sabbath as a way to draw attention to the critical need for life-saving and enhancing organs, eyes, and tissues for transplant. Every major religion in the United States supports organ, eye and tissue donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.

Here are some leader's quotes with regards to donation from the main religions represented in the US:



The Lord in his own life demonstrated how, even in sorrow, love enables us to embrace the needs of others. The generous gift of donation is described as **"a testimony of love for our neighbor."** (Pope Francis)

"I hope that Christian people will seriously and positively consider organ donation. The ready willingness to donate an organ is a clear sign of that sacrificial self-giving for others patterned by Jesus Christ." (David Ebor, Archbishop of York)

Central to Buddhism is the virtue of helping others along with the belief that charity forms an integral part of a spiritual way of life: **"Organ donation is one of the greatest acts of compassion, the ultimate final act for an individual at the end of one's life."** (Master Cheng Yen, Founder of Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation)



Saving of life is one of the basic aims of the Muslim faith. **"If you happen to be ill and in need of a transplant, you certainly would wish that someone would help you by providing the needed organ."** (Sheikh Dr MA Zaki Badawi, Principal, Muslim College, London)

Many references in Hindu scripture support the concept of organ donation. In Sanskrit, Daan is the original word for donation meaning selfless giving. **"The important issue for a Hindu is that which sustains life should be accepted and promoted as Dharma (righteous living). Organ donation is an integral part of our living."** (Hasmukh Velji Shah, International Trustee, World Council of Hindus)



Generally, Judaism encourages and sanctions the saving of lives through organ donation (Pikuach Nefesh). **"If one is in the position to donate an organ to save another's life, it's obligatory to do so, even if the donor never knows who the beneficiary will be."** (Orthodox Rabbi Moses Tendler, Chairman of the Biology Depart. of Yeshiva University in NYC and Chairman of the Bioethics Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America.)

References:

<https://www.unos.org/donation/>

www.donatelife.net

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/about-donation/what-does-my-religion-say/>

This topic has been posted to The Alliance blog:

www.organdonationalliance.org/education-corner-national-donor-sabbath