**DURABLE HEALTHCARE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

**(Advance Directive - Living Will and/or Health Care Agent)**

**POLICY**

Utilizing the principles of autonomy, responsible stewardship and the dignity of human life, each Sister will complete an Advance Directive to help direct health care decisions on her behalf in the event she should be unable to express her own wishes.

**PROCEDURES**

1. Sisters have the option to complete the Advance Directive provided by the Congregation, but are free to use any form that meets the recommended legal and ethical standards for such a document.
2. Ideally, an Advance Directive document contains both a Living Will declaration and the appointment of a Health Care Agent. Each Sister is encouraged to appoint a Health Care Agent (Durable Healthcare Power of Attorney) for health care treatment decisions which may fall outside the limitations of the Living Will component.
3. The **Living Will** is a type of Advance Directive that specifies choices regarding the treatment one wishes to accept or refuse when terminally ill, or in a permanent state of unconsciousness.
4. The **Health Care Agent** is the person appointed by the Sister to make health care decisions on her behalf at any time when she cannot communicate decisions for herself and such decisions are necessary.
5. Every Sister is encouraged to discuss with her physician, her Health Care Agent and significant loved ones, her choice with regard to the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, including life-support equipment when it does not offer reason able hope for recovery.
6. If a Sister does not have any particular person she wishes to appoint as her Health Care Agent and wishes to have the Congregation assume this responsibility, she is advised to word her appointment as **“Congregational Moderator or her Designee.”**
7. The Health Resource Office of the Congregation will assist any Sister who wishes a form or would like assistance in preparing her Advance Directive.
8. One copy of each Sister’s Advance Directive is to be mailed to the Congregational Secretary, who will place it in the Sister’s personal file.