

PRESENTER'S GUIDE

Almost Home

Living With Suffering & Dying

SUMMARY

Saint Augustine once said, "Everything in our life, good and bad, is uncertain, except death; only death is certain." However, no matter how certain it may be, it is one of the most difficult realities to face. But face it we must, each and every one of us.

Sister Thea Bowman is a nationally known Catholic sister whose life is full of love and compassion for God and others. Sister Thea, like many others, is suffering from a terminal illness and is dying. In this video, you will witness this remarkable person telling her story of living with dying: You will be inspired by Sister Thea's wisdom and faith as she continues her journey home to God.

THE GOALS OF THIS VIDEO

- To help persons suffering or dying to understand that God will be with them through their ordeal.
- To help relatives and friends of person suffering and dying understand the emotional and spiritual journeys that accompany the process of suffering and dying.
- To help lay ministers, home eucharistic ministers, and others better serve and understand the needs of the suffering and dying.
- To help the suffering and dying cope with their illnesses.
- To help the friends and relatives of persons suffering and dying cope with the uncertainties and awkwardness it creates in their relationship with that person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some of the fears and uncertainties persons suffering and dying experience?
- What are the classical "stages" of coping with dying?
- How can we better serve the emotional and spiritual needs of persons who are suffering/dying?
- Why do you think Sister Thea still radiates joy even though she is suffering from a terminal illness?
- How can we be better caregivers to the suffering and dying.

