



OUR VISION FOR U.S. HEALTH CARE



'Lord, let our eyes be opened.' Moved with compassion,
Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained
their sight and followed him.

MATTHEW 20:33-34

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH MINISTRY
ENVISIONS A U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
DESIGNED TO CREATE AND SUSTAIN

A STRONG,
HEALTHY NATIONAL
COMMUNITY.

Health care is fundamental to a healthy, flourishing society —
it is not a product or commodity. When people have
unmet health needs, it is difficult for them to fully function
as members of their families, their workplaces or their schools,
which then affects the broader community.



OUR VISION

*is founded in the Core Values of the
Catholic health ministry, echoed in the beliefs
of many faith communities.*

*Learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the
wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow.*

ISAIAH 1:17



HUMAN DIGNITY

Because each person is created in the image of God, each life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth.

Health care is essential to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity of every individual from conception to natural death.



CONCERN FOR THE POOR & VULNERABLE

The moral measure of society is how it treats the poor and vulnerable, who are particularly marginalized by a lack of access to health care.



JUSTICE

Health care is a basic human right alongside food and shelter, all of which are necessary for individuals to participate fully in society.



COMMON GOOD

The health and well-being of each person is intertwined with the health and well-being of the broader community.

Access to health care is an essential element contributing to the common good alongside others such as education, employment and a safe environment.



STEWARDSHIP

Our societal resources are finite, and we must make wise choices for how they are allocated. Health care resources should focus on the well-being of the community and be structured to deliver the care that is most medically beneficial and promotes public health.



PLURALISM

The health care system should allow and encourage involvement of the public and private sectors including voluntary, religious and not-for-profit organizations, and it should respect the religious and ethical values of patients and health care providers alike.

The Catholic health ministry looks forward to a health care system that truly promotes the nation's well-being and respects the dignity of every person.

Working together with our colleagues in Catholic health care, we have updated the following principles for achieving that system to reflect the gains we have made toward our goal while recognizing the challenges we still face.

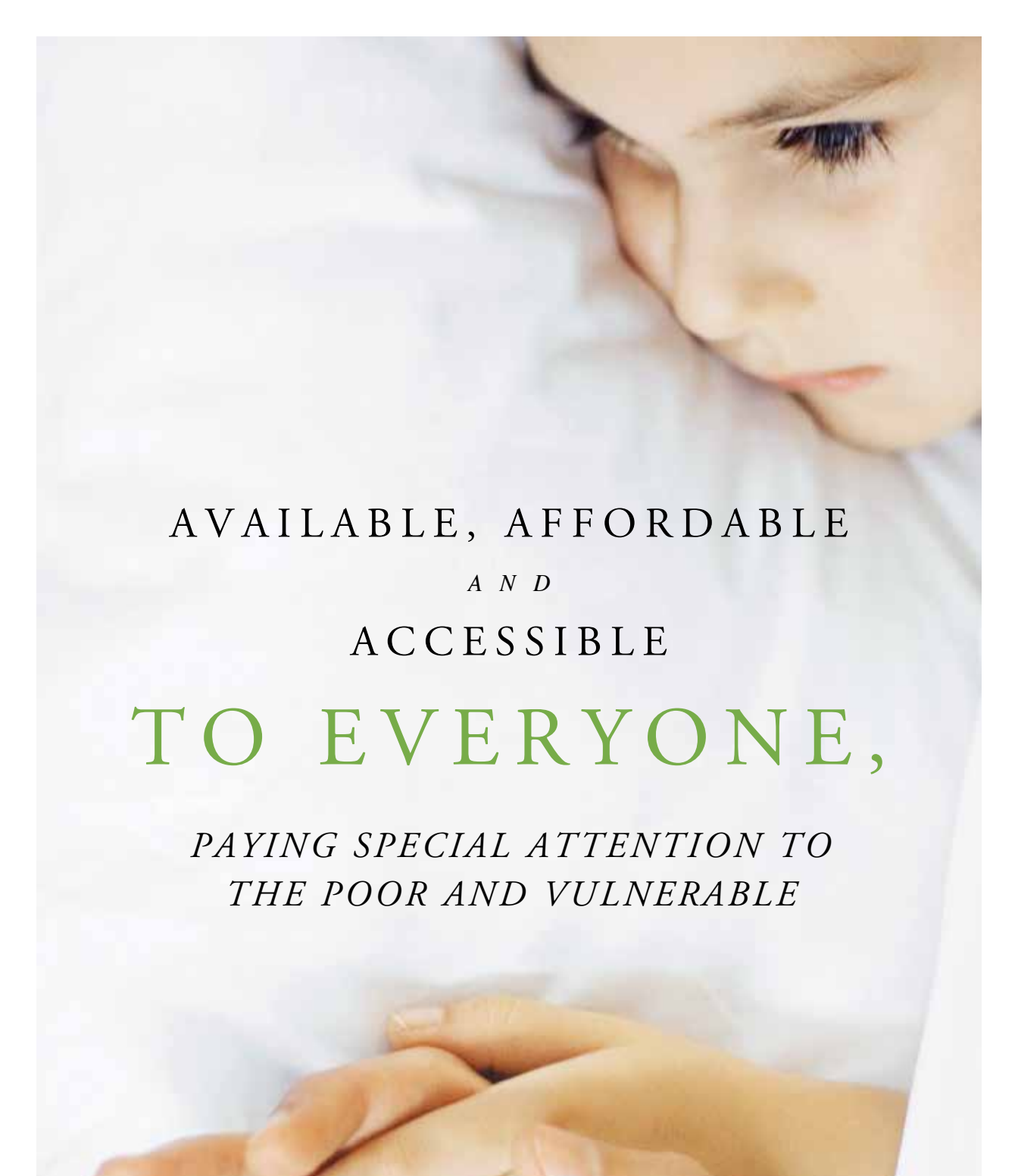




WE BELIEVE

*health care in
the U.S. should be...*





AVAILABLE, AFFORDABLE
AND
ACCESSIBLE
TO EVERYONE,

*PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO
THE POOR AND VULNERABLE*

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

- + Ensure each person has health benefits covering essential services through each stage of life.
- + Achieve health equity by delivering the same level and quality of care to everyone in our nation without exception.
- + Address the additional access and affordability needs of low-income families and individuals.

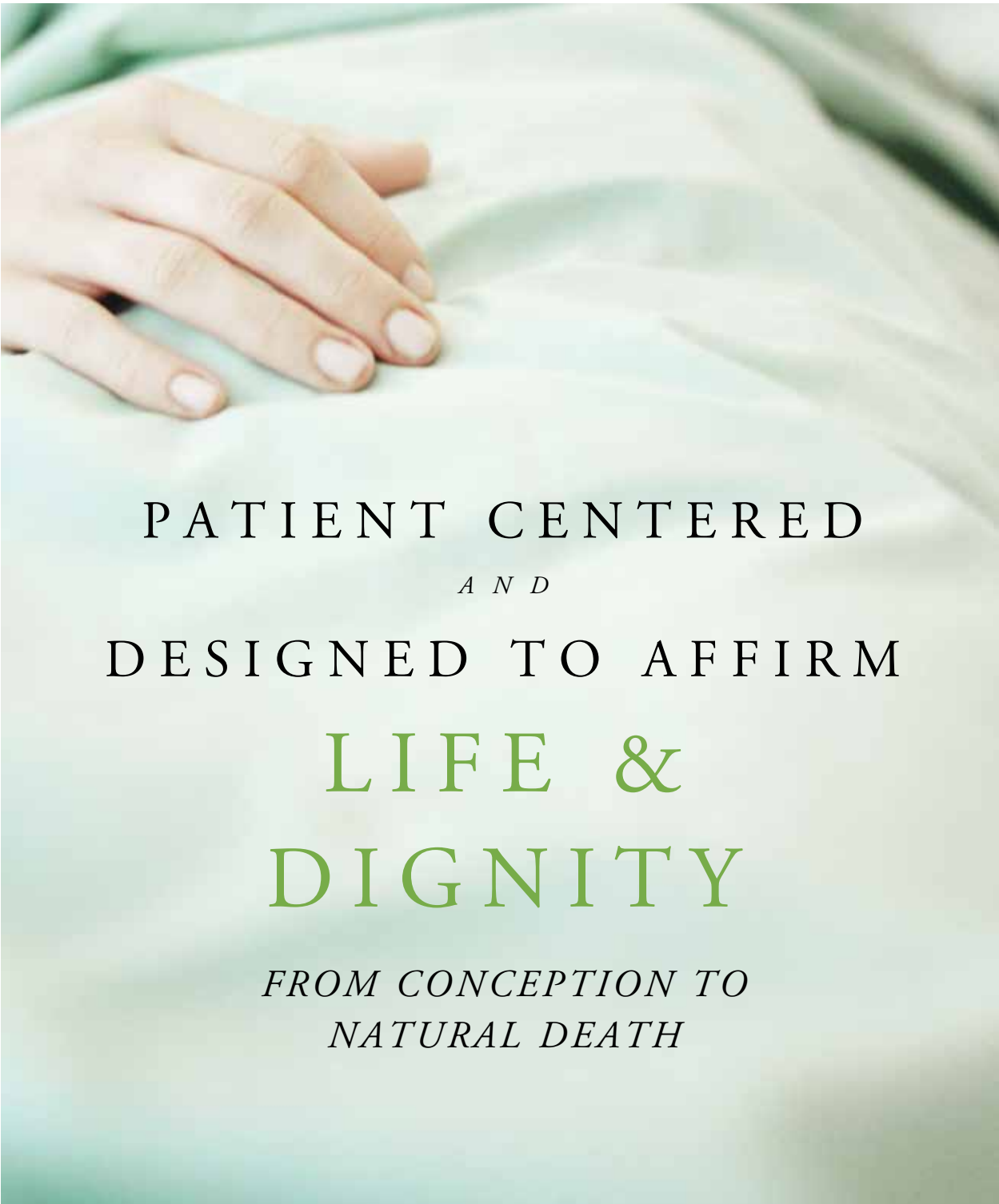


WELLNESS &
PREVENTION
ORIENTED,

*TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF
COMMUNITIES*

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

- + Make preventive care and wellness a core part of health benefits and encourage wellness and prevention initiatives.
- + Improve health literacy and education to help patients maintain their health.
- + Address the social determinants of health to promote well-being and prevent illness.



PATIENT CENTERED
A N D
DESIGNED TO AFFIRM
LIFE &
DIGNITY
*FROM CONCEPTION TO
NATURAL DEATH*

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

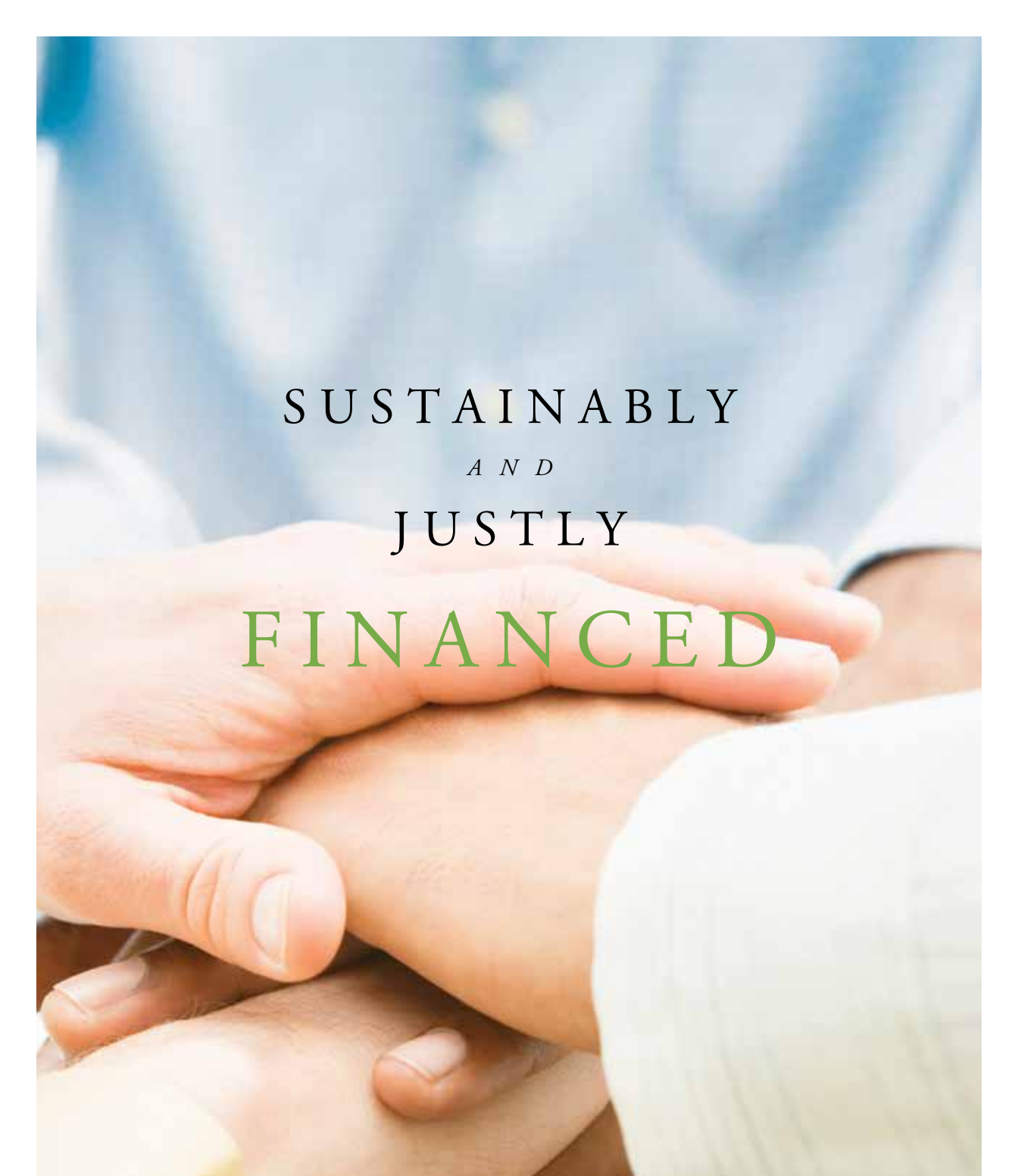
- + Ensure care and services are coordinated and integrated along the continuum of care.
- + Provide quality prenatal and postnatal care and supports to protect the lives of mothers and children.
- + Design quality palliative and end-of-life care to ensure compassionate treatment for persons with serious, chronic and complex diseases and those in the final stages of life.



SAFE, EFFECTIVE
A N D
DESIGNED TO
DELIVER
QUALITY AND
VALUE

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

- + Utilize innovative and high-value care and reallocate savings to improve quality in the health care system.
- + Ensure a high-quality workforce and expand the use of telehealth services to improve access and enhance patient care.
- + Standardize information technology and systems to improve clinical coordination.
- + Optimize health outcomes and quality and prioritize patient safety.



SUSTAINABLY
A N D
JUSTLY
FINANCED

THE SYSTEM SHOULD

- + Share the responsibility of financing among stakeholders in the health system.
- + Strengthen the safety net by having all stakeholders collectively assume responsibility for those who need assistance.
- + Allocate resources transparently and encourage cost-effective care and administration.

WHO IS
CATHOLIC
HEALTH CARE?

- + Catholic health care is a ministry of the church continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today. Catholic health care providers are rooted in the belief that every life is a sacred gift and every human being a unity of body, mind and spirit.
 - + Staffed by people of diverse faiths and backgrounds, Catholic health ministry organizations provide compassionate care and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to those who are poor, underserved and vulnerable.
 - + Every day more than 1 in 7 patients are cared for in Catholic hospitals. In 2017 there were nearly 5 million admissions to Catholic hospitals and over 107 million outpatient visits.
 - + Catholic health care serves all 50 states, with 660 hospitals employing over 750,000 full- and part-time workers and 1,644 continuing care facilities.
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WHAT CAN WE DO TO
HELP IMPROVE
THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM?

- + Continue to lead and work collaboratively to create a system that truly serves everyone and promotes the health of the national community.
- + Utilize *Our Vision* to evaluate future health care proposals.
- + Share *Our Vision* with lawmakers, local leaders and the public to engage them in a dialogue about ways to improve the health system.

CHA IS

A PASSIONATE VOICE

for Jesus' mission of love and healing

A VALUABLE RESOURCE

for information, services and programs

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

of members joined in a shared mission



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