The Catholic moral tradition has a long, honorable and respected tradition of distinguishing between ordinary and extraordinary means of prolonging life. Recent developments in technology and medicine have not changed these principles but have complicated their clinical applications.

FR. EDWIN LISSON, S.J., a native of Kansas City, Kansas, entered the Jesuit Order in 1956. After completion of Philosophy and Theology studies at St. Louis University with a Masters in Historical Theology, Fr. Lisson was ordained in 1969.

He received his doctorate in Moral Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome in 1975. His dissertation is on the work of Fr. Gerald Kelly, S.J., a prominent moralist and medical ethicist in the 1940s and 50s.

While in Europe Fr. Lisson studied health care delivery in Italy, Israel and Britain. Upon returning to the United States he completed a fellowship year in clinical medical ethics at the Texas Medical Center in Houston as well as clinical studies in forensic psychiatry at Oregon State Hospital in Salem.

For the last fifteen years Fr. Lisson has been Professor of Moral Theology and Health Care Ethics in the department of Theological Studies of St. Louis University. In addition to publishing in the area of Medical Ethics, Fr. Lisson serves as a lecturer and consultant for a variety of local and national institutions and professional organizations of health care providers.

The FLANNERY CHAIR OF ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY is an endowed Chair, gift of the late Maud and Milo Flannery of Spokane, to further excellence of theological study and teaching at Gonzaga University. The Flannery Lecture is delivered each year by the outstanding theologian who holds the Chair and is prepared and presented to benefit as wide an audience as possible.

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