Wait for God’s Call is an extensively well-researched document on euthanasia and assisted suicide. Following a clear definition of terms, Father Scaria Kanniyakonil examines many complicated ideas, controversial issues and ethical theories. He includes political and economic considerations.

The author calls upon the works of the world’s most renowned and respected scientists, philosophers and theologians to examine all sides of the issues. There are numerous citations from both the Old and New Testaments as well as documents of the Catholic Church to support a firm position of protecting human life from all types of threats.

The author offers advice and consolation to the terminally ill and caregivers concerning their duty to accept the human condition in the face of death.

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**Review by Mary Ellen McKie**

“Wait For God's Call - A Catholic Perspective on Euthanasia” was written by Fr. Scaria Kanniyakonil in 2011. I am a Roman Catholic retired registered nurse and an extraordinary minister of communion in my local church and hospital. I have read Fr Scaria's book and would like to comment on chapter 8 “Theology of Suffering”.

“Wait For God's Call” teaches that accepting suffering is a means to develop a closer relationship with Jesus. Catholics believe Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God. Jesus is always concerned with the suffering, the poor and the disabled. We can learn to speak quietly with Jesus, asking for His grace and strength in our time of need. Our suffering brothers and sisters are always encouraged to turn toward Jesus in prayer. He promises hope in the face of despair and terminal illness by strengthening our faith and belief in Him who suffered and died for our sins and rose from the dead overcoming physical death and promising eternal life with Him in heaven.

While doing pastoral care, especially in the hospital I encounter patients who are very comforted by the fact that they are remembered in their time of need and are very happy to receive communion. Communal prayer is powerful medicine for the body and soul. We can learn to accept our sufferings nobly when we open up to Jesus in prayer. The Our Father, the
prayer that Jesus Himself taught us, we pray "Thy will be done" gives us the hope that our suffering is not in vain. Jesus, fully human and fully God, loves us and knows our pain.

This book helps us to understand suffering from a Catholic perspective and is recommended reading for all.

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