

## Awareness Messages

### Prayer

Here is a sample prayer that clergy members may like to incorporate in a service on the donor recognition program. It can also be included as a written prayer in a weekly bulletin.

O God,

We thank Thee for the gift of life. May we always cherish this gift and protect it in the cradle of responsibility.

May we understand that our bodies are the houses of Thy infinite spirit.

The mortal house is a temporary abode, but within is the brilliant light of eternity.

Every chamber is a repository of vitality. Each is a place of life. Together, they form a temple of God.

Amen.

### Benediction

Here is a sample benediction a clergy member may like to include at the end of a donor recognition program.

As we go from this House of Worship, may we take with us the words and the spirit that our faith offers us.

Here, we learn of and sing praises for the gift of life. We declare that while we live, our bodily form is the vessel that receives God's light. May we be worthy bearers of that light in bodies which are strong and healthy.

From our eyes, may the light shine brightly so that in the darkness we may see the needs of others.

Through our ears, may we hear beyond the noise of self-interest to the calls for help from those in need.

May our hearts beat with compassion and our arms be strong in reaching out to lift up those who stumble.

And after life has gone from us, may we still remain the messengers of Thy light. May the sparks housed within us, because of our offering of love, become the flame of life for others.

Amen.

## Inspirational Writings

### To Remember Me

The day will come when my body will lie upon a white sheet neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and the dying. At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the Bed of Life, and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that, someday, a speechless body will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her window.

Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help  
the flowers grow.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses  
and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil.

Give my soul to God.

If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or  
word to someone who needs you.

If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.

Robert N. Test

## Bequest

So white.  
Now I lay me down upon a sheet so white.

No more.  
My brain can hear your voice no more.

But wait.  
These eyes,  
This heart,  
This kidney,  
These bones, skin, blood, nerve  
Still can serve.  
As Christ gave His body and His blood for me,  
Now let me give this gift to thee.  
Take these eyes and let them see.  
Let this skin feel again and be.  
Accept this organ to make her whole,  
This blood to speed him on his way,  
Then Blessed Lord, receive my soul.

Herbert Nelson