

*The Roman Catholic*  
**Diocese of Phoenix**

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400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2336 TELEPHONE (602) 257-0030  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 10, 2012

Ms. Christine Minch  
Americare Hospice and Palliative Care  
1212 N. Spencer  
Mesa, AZ 85203

Dear Ms. Minch:

Through the work of Rev. John D. Ehrich, Medical Ethics Director for the Diocese of Phoenix, and the Medical Ethics Board, I have received a favorable evaluation of the medical practices that have been established for the conduct of hospice care by Americare Hospice and Palliative Care in Mesa, Arizona.

With their recommendation, I hereby grant permission for you to identify Americare Hospice and Palliative Care as a Catholic institution, for one year following the date of this letter. Prior to the first anniversary date of the granting of this permission, please contact Fr. Ehrich to arrange for a further review of the implementation of the policies and practices that have been established. Following that review and based on the recommendation of Fr. Ehrich and the Medical Ethics Board, I would consider extending my approval to identify Americare Hospice and Palliative Care as a Catholic institution for a longer period of time. A regular schedule of ongoing review and evaluation could then be established.

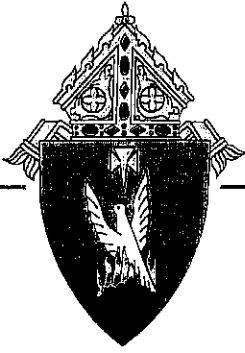
Thank you for your commitment to this critical ministry to persons and families who are facing the challenges of end of life decisions and are seeking to ensure that the care that is provided will be faithful to the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care*, as promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas J. Olmsted".

+ Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix

CC: Rev. John D. Ehrich, STL



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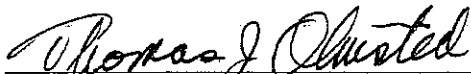
## DECREE

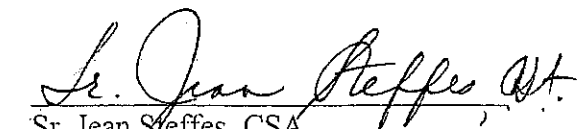
### Granting Permission to be Identified as a "Catholic" organization To Americare Hospice & Palliative Care

By virtue of my Episcopal authority as the Ordinary of the Particular Church of the Diocese of Phoenix, I hereby grant my consent to **Americare Hospice & Palliative Care** to be identified and publicly known as an authentically "Catholic" health care organization. This acknowledgement of Catholic identity is hereby recognized by me in virtue of Canon 216 of the *Code of Canon Law*, in conjunction with the responsibilities entrusted to me as enunciated in the Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops, *Apostolorum Successores*, #205.

This permission is granted for a period of 1 Year from the date of this Decree with the option of a 3 year renewal upon completion of an audit by the Medical Ethics Director of the Diocese of Phoenix. Therefore, this permission is inherently conditional and is not perpetual. Consequently, this permission may be withdrawn at any time by me or my successors, should it be discovered that Americare Hospice & Palliative Care is found to be out of compliance with the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Health Care Services* issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, or if it has compromised its Catholic identity in a serious manner that causes grave scandal amongst the Faithful.

May God Bless and sustain these efforts to be identified with the public mission of the Church.  
Given this day, February 13, 2012  
at the Chancery of the Diocese of Phoenix.

  
+Thomas J. Olmsted  
Bishop of Phoenix

  
Sr. Jean Steffes, CSA  
Chancellor

SEAL

