

Donor Sabbath Candle Ceremonies

A candle lighting ceremony is a touching way to honor the memory of those who extended the Gift of Life through organ and tissue donation or to offer a prayer for those waiting for a transplant. A brief ceremony can be incorporated into your service where appropriate. It takes only a few moments and can have a dramatic impact on your congregation.

The following candle lighting activities were developed by the Delaware Valley Transplant Program.

Eighteen Candles

Eighteen people are called at random from the congregation. Each is given a lit candle. One by one, each person blows out his or her candle. After the last candle is blown out, there is a brief moment of silence. A spokesperson then says, "This is a visual representation of the eighteen people who die EVERY DAY in the United States while waiting for an organ transplant." This statement is followed by another brief moment of silence.

Eight Candles

Eight people stand before the congregation. Each person is holding a candle. One by one, each person lights his or her candle. After the last candle is lit, there is a brief moment of silence. A spokesperson says, "One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people. An organ and tissue donor can save the lives of up to 60 people." This statement is followed by another brief moment of silence.

For many congregations, these ceremonies may provide a very dramatic moment that can spark family conversation about the life-saving gifts of donation. If such a ceremony is held, please be certain that your congregation has access to further information, such as bulletin inserts or brochures which can be obtained by calling LifeSource at (888) 5-DONATE. These short activities create very powerful statements with minimal time and financial resources.

National Donor Sabbath