

SPIRITUALITY AND ORGAN DONATION

Presented by Rev. Hazel R. Thomas, Chaplain and Living Donor
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Spirituality

- Common aspects of spirituality
 - Connections
 - Individual, personal, unique to each person
 - Meaning-making
 - Coping strategies
- Religion
 - Faith
 - Higher power
- Philosophies
 - Ethical living
 - Moral standards
- Cultures
 - People groups

Ethic of Reciprocity



Ethic of Reciprocity

- Which came first?
- **In faith traditions**
 - **Judaism** – What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. ~ Hillel the Elder, *Talmud*
 - **Christianity** – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. ~ Jesus, *Gospel of Matthew*
 - **Islam** – No one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself. ~ The Prophet Mohammad
 - **Buddhism** – Treat no others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. ~ The Buddha
 - **Hinduism** – This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you. ~ *Mahabharata*
 - **Baha'i** – Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself. ~ *Gleanings*

Ethic of Reciprocity

- **In philosophies**
 - **Confucianism** – Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you. ~ *Analects*
 - **Mohism** (Chinese philosophy) – If people regarded other people's families in the same way that they regard their own, who then would incite their own family to attack another? For one would do for others as one would do for oneself. ~ Mozi
 - **Humanism** – Don't do things you wouldn't want to have done to you. ~ British Humanist Society
- **Within cultures**
 - **Nordic culture** – Don't treat others as you would not wish to be treated by others. ~ Ásatrú
 - **Gypsy culture** – Put the welfare of others before yourself. ~ Gypsy Code
 - **Native American** – We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive. ~ Chief Dan George

How does this affect donation?

- ✓ **Majority consider it a personal choice and are not against donation**
- ✓ **Putting the Ethic of Reciprocity into practice**
 1. **Jehovah's Witness**
 - Bloodless transplant/donation (all blood removed from organs)
 2. **Shinto**
 - Impure; dangerous; to interfere with a corpse brings bad luck
 3. **Chinese culture**
 - Unthinkable; avoid any violation of the physical body
 4. **Gypsy (Romani) culture**
 - One year post death the soul retraces its steps
 5. **First Nation culture**
 - Spirit of deceased will be caught between earthly and spirit world, searching for lost parts
 6. **Inuit Native Spirituality**
 - Another's soul is inherited after donation and life destiny will be changed to his/hers

Spiritual Aspects of Donation

- Hope
- Making good out of bad
- Creating wholeness
- Altruism
- Healing
- Connections
- Improved view of self and world
- Responding to and fulfilling what God has asked of me

I read it somewhere ...

- "You Can Do So Much More" May 2013 edition of Reader's Digest
 - Altruistic donation
 - UCLA Medical Center chaplain Jacquelin Gorman, now a lawyer
 - Giving beyond yourself



I read it somewhere ...

- *The Organ Donor Experience* by Katrina A Bramstedt & Rena Down, 2011
 - "Organ donors are, by definition, altruists, and their act is even more generous when they remain anonymous. But altruism doesn't tell the whole story. There are a myriad motivations, some subconscious, some conscious, that compel people to donate a part of themselves to someone they don't know. *The Organ Donor Experience* uncovers the desires, personalities, and motivations of Good Samaritan organ donors and reveals much about the process of donating an organ to a needy recipient."



I saw an episode ...

- "When I Grow Up" episode on Grey's Anatomy, aired April 2, 2015
 - Second chance with choices and for life
 - 100s helped through donation of all organs, tissue, and corneas



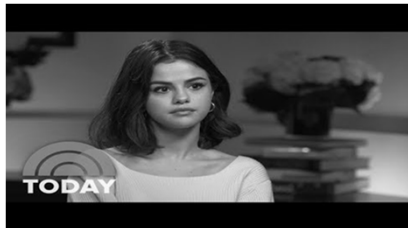
I saw an episode ...

- Selena Gomez and Francia Raisa on The Today Show, aired October 30, 2017
 - "I didn't want to burden anyone" ~ Selena choosing not to tell or ask for transplant testing
 - "She saved my life" ~ Selena describing what Francia did by donating kidney



I saw an episode ...

- Selena Gomez and Francia Raisa on The Today Show, aired October 30, 2017
 - "I think it's a beautiful story" ~ Francia describing how she told Selena she was a match
 - "Honored and grateful" ~ Francia responding to the question of regret



Responses to Survey

- What aspect of your faith or spirituality influenced your decision?
 - Creating good out of an unexpected bad event (death)
 - Giving wholeness to another who is broken and in need
 - Providing hope
- Comments on spirituality
 - "He [Creator God] blessed me with a kidney disease so that His goodness could be shown in my life." ~ Kidney Recipient
 - "God asks us to tithe time and money and resources. Health is a gift of God and a resource I am able to share." ~ Living Donor

Our Story ~ Kidney Frogs



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