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6 f 24 children e became a woman, but

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48 The Red and the Dead

53 Administrative offices

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10 Game played on horseback

14 First man 15 Jesus is the

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- 16 Biblical land 17 Imprudent
- 19 Leaf of a book
- 20 A letter of Christian 21
- Initiation 22 Primary symbol of
- Baptism 23 English monk who
- wrote The History of the English Church and
- People 24 Traders
- 26 Fixate on
- 29 Large hospital rooms 30 Certain horses
- Performers of a sacra-31
- ment 35 Deal out sparingly
- 36 Therefore
- 37 To you, to Pierre 38 One of the vows of a
- religious
 - 40 Fragrant oil 41 Notre Dame nickname,
 - 'The Fighting
- 42 Anticipates with loathing
 - 43 Eyelash cosmetic

Kids'Chronicle Answers from page B16: Answers: 1. peace, 2. parable, 3. Paul, 4. Pentecost, 5. Peter, 6. psalms, 7. prophet, 8. prayer

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- 26 A book for ritual and liturgy
- 27 'Dodo
- 28 Place to find a good buv
- 29 Device for hoisting
- 31 Altar stone
- 32 Miss Kett 33 The to
 - Damascus, place where Paul was blind-

ed 34 A couple of knights?

- 36 Inheritor 39 Dies 40 ____ by any other name would smell as
- sweet 42 Member of the clergy
- 43 Miraculous
- 44 'Texas fort
- 45 Auctions
- 46 Perfume the altar
- 48 Disrespectful back talk
- 49 Certain opera
- 50 It could be corai
- 51 Negative contraction of the verb 'to be'
- 53 151 in ancient Rome
- 54 OT prophet
- 55 Liturgical color for Pentecost
- Answers on page B12 (No. 44)

Must cancer patients agree to treatments?

O. Can you tell me what are my obligations to accept or refuse treatment for cancer? What must we do to prolong life, if anything? -The doctor says my condition is not hopeful, and he is uncertain about how effective chemotherapy will be. I am old and have no pressing family responsibilities. (New York)

A. We need to begin, of course, as you already have, by acknowledging that, while life is a sacred and awesome gift from God, death is for us not an absolute evil. We believe the end of this earthly life is not the end of existence; thus we do not cling frantically to every additional, moment, regardless of the cost or consequences to ourselves and others.

Christian faithand the teachings we have learned about how to live a Christ-centered life say much about the questions we must reflect on at times like this. The concerns you have, which are shared by everyone in similar circumstances, basically revolve around two words, "benefit" and "burden."

What benefits will a particular therapy, whatever it be, bring to you, your family and perhaps others? At best, or worst, what are the reasonable expectations? What likelihood of success does your team of physicians offer? What is the best medical probability of how results might turn out for you?

These questions must be weighed along with the burdens involved. Today, costs of medical care for catastrophic illnesses easilv reach into hundreds of thousands of dollars. What does this do financially to your family or other loved ones when balanced against the expectations of success? Considering your age and responsibilities, is the sheer pain involved rea-



B17

Faith & Family

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2004

sonably worth the benefits you might expect? Consider the other physical and psychological burdens on yourself and those around you. How might your decision affect your chances for anything like a reasonably normal human life?

I recognize these are heavy, almost brutal questions. But we must deal with them when faced as you are with decisions about "extraordinary" ways of regaining or maintaining physical health.

You say you are older, your children are grown and you have no significant family responsibilities. Your answer to these questions will therefore differ from those of a younger mother or father with young children.

In any case you don't need to be an expert in moral theology to arrive at good honest answers. With the help of those dear to you, and maybe others whose wisdom you trust, pray about it and think it through as best you can in the light of faith and good sense. Then be peaceful with your decisions, and place yourself in the merciful and loving hands of God.

Father John Dietzen is a cplumnist for Catholic News Servide. Questions may be sent to him at Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail jjdiet zen@aol.com.



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