

## SAMPLE LETTER TO CLERGY FROM A DONOR FAMILY MEMBER

Date

Dear Name,

I am writing to you about a topic of great importance to me -- organ and tissue donation. I am a family member of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ donor and my \_\_\_\_\_ gave restored health to others by being a donor. Helping to give the Gift of Life has been a powerful and healing experience for me. I have found comfort in knowing that my \_\_\_\_\_ was a donor and was able to help others.

We have a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of donation during National Donor Sabbath, scheduled for the weekend of November \_\_\_\_\_. This annual observance has been established to raise awareness, through religious communities, of the urgent need for organ and tissue donation. Currently, over 54,000 people are on the national waiting list for organs and thousands will need donated tissues such as bone and corneas this year. Each day, an average of 9 people will die while waiting for a life-saving organ.

As a religious leader in our community, you can play a vital role in the National Donor Sabbath observance by encouraging people to learn the facts about donation and to discuss their wishes with their families. Family communication is critical for solving the shortage of donor organs and tissues. When a death occurs, hospitals request consent for donation from the next-of-kin, thus it is crucial that family members know each other's wishes about donation before a death occurs. Your addressing the issue of donation could be the catalyst for those discussions.

There are several ways you could focus on the issue of organ and tissue donation during the time of worship -- perhaps as a sermon topic, in the bulletin, in educational classes, or by making literature and donor cards available to our congregation. Our local organ procurement organization, \_\_\_\_\_, can also provide you with materials and assistance.

Religious institutions across the country will be participating in this special weekend, truly making it a national effort. I would be happy to do whatever I can to help facilitate National Donor Sabbath in our congregation. I will call you soon to discuss this event and see how I can be of help in organizing our National Donor Sabbath activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name