

April 25, 2016

Dear Father,

The Canadian Catholic Bishops are supporting five campaigns that promote life and argue for life as Legislators begin debate on what is being called “Medical Assistance in a Death” or “Maid”,

Each campaign provides background information on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

5 CAMPAIGNS AGAINST PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

1. ***The Respect for Conscience*** bilingual campaign involves a proposal on how to respect the conscience rights of doctors and health-care facilities when faced with the situation of a patient requesting assisted suicide. The project is an initiative of the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience. Involving the Archdiocese of Toronto, the Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada, the Catholic Organization for Life and Family, the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Societies, the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, and Canadian Physicians for Life, it represents 5000 physicians and 110 healthcare facilities with 18,000 care beds and 60,000 staff.

Concerned Canadians can indicate their support, as well as write to the appropriate

officials in each province or territory with respect to its plans to protect the conscience

rights of health-care workers and facilities. <http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/>

2. **Life-giving Love** is a bilingual information campaign for palliative care, and against euthanasia and assisted suicide. It was launched by the Catholic Organization for Life

and Family in cooperation with the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops.

<http://www.lifegivinglove.com/>

3. Religious leaders of Canadian Catholics, Orthodox, Evangelical Christians, Jews,

Muslims and Mormons have issued a bilingual joint **Declaration on Euthanasia and**

Assisted Suicide. Over 20,000 Canadians have signed, urging federal, provincial and territorial legislators to enact and uphold laws to make good-quality home care and

palliative care accessible, and to implement regulations and policies that ensure respect for the freedom of conscience of all health-care workers and administrators

who will not and cannot accept suicide or euthanasia as a medical solution to pain and

suffering. <http://www.euthanasiadeclaration.ca/>

4. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver has launched a campaign to protect and safeguard freedom of conscience and religion for health-care workers. It includes a petition to the House of Commons for a national strategy on palliative care, as well as a postcard to the Minister of Justice. <http://rcav.org/assisted-suicide/>

5. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton is sponsoring a campaign to promote the true dignity of life and death. ***Every Life Matters*** includes a website with a video to help parishes and ordinary Catholics understand the issues involved, and provides a list of practical suggestions on how to choose life. <http://www.commitlife.com/>

The following also are excellent sources of information on physician-assisted suicide:

Your own diocese/eparchy or parish

The Catholic Organization for Life and Family

<http://www.colf.ca/index.php/en/life-issues/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide>

<http://www.colf.ca/index.php/fr/la-vie/euthanasie-et-suicide-assiste>

Living with Dignity

<http://vivredignite.org/>

<http://vivredignite.org/en/>

Physicians' Alliance Against Euthanasia

<http://collectifmedecins.org/en/>

<http://collectifmedecins.org/>

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

<http://www.epcc.ca/>

It is important to inform the faithful as best we can of the many pro-life voices in Canada. Please use the above information in an effective way to keep our people informed this widespread effort to maintain the value of life as much as possible especially now as the debate moves quickly through the Houses of Government.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Bishop Richard Grecco