



Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council of The Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

Communiqué No.2

Date: January 14, 2016

To: Chairpersons of Education and Health, Parish Presidents, Provincial Executive, Life Members, National Chairperson/Education and Health
From: Margaret Fitzpatrick, Chairperson, Education and Health
(Attachment: Personal or Advance Directive Document)

Palliative Care: In our Palliative Care Motion, approved at the provincial convention, we were asked to write provincial government members requesting equal access to high quality and consistent home-based and hospice end-of-life palliative care. With the new government in place, now is the time to take action! We are asked to educate members and the community on what constitutes good palliative care, in the hope that they may volunteer in helping others on their final journey - a corporal work of mercy in this, the year of The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

Physician Assisted Dying: On January 11, the federal government, not having been able to meet the February 6 deadline for drafting doctor –assisted dying legislation, asked the Supreme Court of Canada for a six-month extension. The gravity of this situation, which affects all citizens, and this limited time frame has the Bishops of Canada and interfaith partners acting to gather signatures in their communities, indicating opposition to the legalization of physician assisted suicide. We are urged to sign **on line** this declaration, “The Ecumenical and Interfaith Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide”, and to get community participation.
(<http://www.euthanasiadeclaration.ca/sign-the-declaration>)

When writing letters to government members opposing physician assisted death, and supporting the need for better, consistent and accessible hospice and palliative care, please stress the importance of the rights of conscience of physicians who do not wish to take part in nor to refer patients for medical aid in dying.

Personal or Advance Directives: With the interest in end-of-life issues recently, it would be a good idea for all Catholics to have written documentation on their wishes for end-of-life care. Marie Cameron, Honorary Life Member has prepared a document which may be used as an example for members in preparing their own directive (document attached).

Catechesis: We all have a part to play to support families in understanding and living our Catholic faith. As the **Born of the Spirit** catechetical series, which has been in use since the end of the denominational school system is no longer available, dioceses across Canada are searching for and developing resources. In the Archdiocese of St. John's, resources that are “respectful of family life and the realities of daily living, less school-centred, and more suited to building, fostering and

growing faith in the family” are being developed. To become more informed about this program, check out **Living Faith, A Family Resource** included in the weekly church bulletin. Other dioceses may have different programs.

Coady Institute: To obtain information on the Coady Institute, one of our voluntary funds, go to Price List under Resources on the CWL website (Brochures – Limit of 20 –FREE).

Adult Colouring: If you want something to lower your blood pressure, lessen anxiety, reduce tension headaches and relieve digestive concerns, national chairperson, Nancy Simms recommends adult colouring books! They are now readily available and may be a good way to relax.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year, with the fulfilment of our good intentions!

Margaret Fitzpatrick, Chairperson/ Education and Health