

## **Ontario Call for Conscience Campaign – Feb. 1 – March 31, 2018**

Dear CWL Members

**The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario has approved a Call for Conscience Campaign** The campaign is being organized by the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience. The focus of the campaign is to encourage Ontario's political parties to:

- Provide conscience protection for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals who do not want to participate in assisted suicide or euthanasia. Currently, Ontario's regulatory agencies are forcing referral, even if this is contrary to the caregiver's convictions. Caregivers are at risk of being disciplined and losing their license to practice.
- Support faith-based hospitals, hospices and nursing homes who are not able to allow assisted suicide or euthanasia on the premises.
- Ensure sufficient palliative care in the province.

### **We need your help to get the word out.**

Please ask all of your members to go to the website [CanadiansforConscience.ca/Ontario](http://CanadiansforConscience.ca/Ontario). There they can write a letter to their MPP (and as soon as all of the candidate are named, to their candidates) in the upcoming Ontario provincial election. Remember that the members are acting in their own personal capacity in this regard.

Members should also inquire of their pastors to see how they can assist in their parish response to this appeal. We need to get as many people as possible to participate in the campaign. Each pastor is asked to identify a parish coordinator to coordinate the parish response. Members could assist the parish coordinator or offer to act as the parish coordinator.

The role of the parish coordinator:

- Parish Coordinators will need to find a team of volunteers to receive each parishioners name, email and postal code at each of the weekend Masses.

- Each volunteer will be equipped with a clip board and a few pens to ensure that emails, postal codes, and cellphone numbers (optional) will be adequately collected. It is important that parishioners write down their information *legibly* so it can be easily transcribed into the digital reporting spreadsheet.
- Once the emails and postal codes are collected, the Parish Coordinator and volunteers will input this data onto the reporting spreadsheet. Upon entering this data, the parish coordinator will then send the data to the Diocesan Coordinator.
- For parishioners without emails who would like to participate; please see the paper-copy letter in the **Google drive**. Parish Coordinators can print this off and distribute it as requested. The parishioner is responsible for signing and mailing the letter to their MPP.
- All the files referenced can be found at [bit.ly/ONCFC2018](http://bit.ly/ONCFC2018)
- A very helpful video can be found at <https://youtu.be/rgNLt6W-ww0>
- Note: procedures may differ slightly from diocese to diocese. Your pastor will know how your Bishop has directed the Campaign to be organized in your Diocese.

Many thanks for all of your hard work in spearheading this campaign at your parish! We couldn't do it without you! God Bless.

Thank you.