



DIOCESE OF
LONDON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1070 WATERLOO STREET
LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 3Y2
CANADA
519-433-0658
FAX: 519-266-4353

16 January 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2017, our diocese, and others across the province, participated in the “Call for Conscience” campaign to advocate for the protection of conscience rights for doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who receive requests to participate in assisted suicide and euthanasia. Despite more than 30,000 letters sent to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), this campaign did not achieve its desired goal. Ontario still does not have legislation that adequately protects the conscience rights of health care workers who are opposed to cooperating in actions that would cause the death of their patients. Health care workers in our province are being forced to choose between their careers and their conscience.

Ontario remains one of the few jurisdictions in the world without adequate protection for conscientious objectors. As a provincial election is approaching this June, we need your help to highlight this issue for MPPs and those seeking office. The 2018 Call for Conscience campaign has the following goals:

- 1) To renew the call to protect the right of health care professionals to abstain from any involvement in causing the death of their patients.
- 2) To provide protection for faith based facilities, like our Catholic hospitals, that are not performing assisted suicide and euthanasia or cooperating in these actions.
- 3) To urge MPPs and those seeking office to increase access and funding for palliative care in Ontario.

I am asking all parishioners to provide their name, postal code and email address on lists that will be available at your church on designated “Sign-Up Sundays”. You will then be sent an email with an online link to contact candidates in your riding and the leaders of the parties to express your concerns. The whole process, done electronically, takes only five minutes. For those without an email account, draft letters will be available which you can send to your MPP.

Dioceses and other faith traditions across Ontario are also participating in this initiative. The goal of the campaign is to build a list of 100,000 people by the end of February 2018 who are concerned about the issue.

The Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience that is organizing this campaign has assured me that your personal information will be kept confidential. The Coalition will be able to contact those who provide their email address on ongoing issues of conscience protection or euthanasia. If at any time you want your name removed from the email list, there will be an opportunity to unsubscribe.

I ask that you participate in “Sign-Up Sunday”. To ensure that our voice is heard in the public square, we need to use modern technology effectively.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support and strengthen our diocese. Please continue to pray for the dying, for those who are suffering and for those caring for them.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.*

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.
Bishop of London