



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Convention

June 4, 2016
Westlock, Alberta

Christian Family Life Oral Report

Madame President:

Vocations

Vocations “are a gift of God” and “they are born in communities of faith.” Prayers for vocations should be encouraged; priests and religious can be invited to speak on vocations at the CWL meetings. Just recently, the Edmonton Diocesan Convention had Fr. Marc Cramer, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Edmonton, speak to the assembly about the importance of supporting seminarians by way of prayer and financial assistance. The cost for a seminarian for one year at St. Joseph’s Seminary is \$36,000.00. At this present time, there are over forty young men studying at the seminary. There are approximately six men who will be ordained as Deacons soon and the next step will be the ordination to priesthood. Please continue to pray and support the men as they journey.

Sanctity of Life

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide has been a topic of concern across Canada. Canadians at all stages of life should have access to publicly funded, high quality palliative care, and it should be a core service under all provincial health plans.

Euthanasia is the act of deliberately ending a person’s life to relieve suffering. **Assisted suicide** is deliberately **assisting** or encouraging a person to kill themselves.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has submitted a brief to the House of Commons standing committee on Justice and Human Rights, which is currently considering Bill C-14 (“Medical Assistance in Dying”).

Bill C-14, no matter how it may be amended, is an affront to human dignity, an erosion of human solidarity, and a danger to all vulnerable persons -

particularly the aged, disabled, infirm and sick, who so often find themselves isolated and marginalized.

Doctors who are against euthanasia and who care for terminally ill children and adults argue that virtually all pain and other symptoms can be managed to minimize suffering.

No one should lose their job for refusing to do something they believe is wrong. This includes a doctor or nurse who conscientiously objects to assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Bill C-14 does not provide conscience protection for medical staff or nurse practitioners.

Canadian Bioethics Moments

The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute is introducing a series entitled “Catholic Bioethics Moments” – a series of brief videos with theologians Dr. Moira McQueen and Dr. Bridget Campion – explaining Church teachings about mainstream issues in bioethics. The inaugural series will consist of topics such “End-of-Life Care”, examines “Death”, “Foregoing Treatment”, “Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide” and “The Principle of Double Effect.” In the months ahead other episodes will become available, titled “Palliative Care”, “Pain Relief at the End of Life”, “Donation of Vital Organs”, and “Conscience.” These videos will be available at www.ccbiutoronto.ca or Catholic Bioethics Moments You Tube Channel.

This concludes my report.

Gladys B.

Standing Committee Chairperson