

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

This is a request from our Provincial CWL President Anne Madden:

This is extremely important....please share this with all your contacts, friends, family and co-workers!

Here is the message from Deacon Larry Worthen BA, MA (Th.), LLB  
Executive Director, Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada,

I am writing you to inform the Ontario CWL about a provincial call for conscience campaign that has been **scheduled for February 4 and 11** in all Catholic parishes in Ontario. In October I presented to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and they approved this initiative. To date, the Bishops have earmarked \$30,000 towards this project.

Our goal is to obtain 100,000 email addresses of people who are concerned about the legalization of assisted suicide and the failure of the government to protect conscience rights for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health care workers in Ontario. Also, many faith based institutions are in jeopardy because euthanasia advocates are threatening legal action if they do not allow assisted suicide on the premises. In addition, only a fraction of Ontario's population has access to effective palliative care services.

We have a database that allows concerned people to send emails to their candidates in the upcoming election dealing with these issues, copying the party leaders. We simply need to capture emails so we can communicate with these people. Information is kept strictly confidential and can be shared only with the person's diocese.

Each diocese has a coordinator assigned from the bishop. Each bishop will ask all parishes to participate. We could really use help from the CWL to make sure this happens in as many parishes as possible and to provide assistance to the pastor with providing the spreadsheets, ensuring as many parishioners as possible sign up by having signup tables at the door after Mass, making sure that there is someone to enter the data on the spreadsheets, and possibly assisting the priest in making presentations and putting notices in the parish bulletins. We have a selection of documents that can help in the campaign.

I know that some of you are already involved in the valuable campaign, please get involved if you if you aren't involved yet. Spread the word and above all remember to pray for success. Manitoba was successful in obtaining Conscience Rights, we can be too, if we all work together.

Please see the sample letter attached in English

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

Dear <<Name>>,

**The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario has approved a Call for Conscience Campaign for Sunday, February 4 and Sunday, February 11, 2018.** 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](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.

<<Your Name>>