

service

Sue Lubowitz

The Joy of Catholic Health Care

To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others—family members, friends, healthcare workers—with creation and with themselves – Pope Francis

From February 2 to 8, 2025 we mark National Catholic Health Care Week across Canada, recognizing the important work of Catholic health organizations in our province and across Canada. The week leads into the World Day of the Sick, February 11, a Catholic day of observance established by Pope John Paul II to encourage prayers and reflections for those who are ill and for those who care for them.



National Catholic Health Care Week

February 2 to 8, 2025

The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada website states that Catholic health care serves over 5 million people annually and employs over 85,000 people.

The goal of National Catholic Health Care Week is to build understanding, connection and trust about their mission and contribution as a Catholic health community – especially during the recent health care pandemic response.

We are tremendously blessed to have several Catholic health organizations in the Province of Ontario. We give thanks and ask God to continue to bless the work these organizations and care givers within them in caring for the sick.

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The Catholic Health Alliance of Canada offers a number of valuable resources. You are encouraged to mark National Catholic Health Care Week with daily reflections and prayers. Please visit the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada website at www.chac.ca.

To Ponder...

Can faith make you well?

Can prayer or meditation transcend your inner self to help your physical being?



Health has been defined as the harmonious balance of body, mind and spirit. The medical establishment is beginning to more fully understand the vital connections that exist between the various human systems and how they work together to form the body's healing system. The connection between faith and health has been a topic for medical research for the past many years.

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“Spirituality is important to many patients as they think about their health,” said Tyler VanderWeele from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “Focusing on spirituality in health care means caring for the whole person, not just their disease.”

<https://hsph.harvard.edu/news/spirituality-better-health-outcomes-patient-care/>

Hospice palliative care allows for the care of the whole person. National Hospice Palliative Care Week is a time to celebrate and highlight the incredible work being done to provide quality palliative care across the country. Councils may wish to recognize the impact of palliative care on individuals and families, and to call for better access to this care for all. The first full week of May (May 4-10) marks National Hospice Palliative Care Week in Canada. In preparation for National Hospice Palliative Care Week, councils are urged to share the Horizons of Hope toolkit provided by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (<https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/horizons-of-hope-a-toolkit-for-catholic-parishes-on-palliative-care/>). Also available is the CCCB Press Release: Statement and Recommendations following the International Interfaith Symposium on Palliative Care available at:

[\(https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/statement-and-recommendations-following-the-international-interfaith-symposium-on-palliative-care/\)](https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/statement-and-recommendations-following-the-international-interfaith-symposium-on-palliative-care/)

