



**The Kingston Diocesan Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Christian Family Life

One Heart, One Voice, One Mission

Directive #2

Pages: 2

Date: February 13, 2016

To: Parish Council Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chairperson

From: Elizabeth Knudson, Diocesan Christian Family Life Chairperson

CC: Provincial Christian Family Life Chairperson, Roseanne Slogan

"Your suffering is a great means of Love, if you make use of it, especially if you offer it for peace in the world. Suffering in and of itself is useless, but suffering that is shared with the passion of Christ is a wonderful gift and a sign of love." - Mother Teresa

In this directive I have chosen to focus on Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Pope Francis stated, "It's a false sense of compassion to consider euthanasia as an act of dignity when in fact it's a sin against God and creation."

Everything seems to indicate that the Trudeau government will soon legalize "medical and assisted suicide" -- a euphemism for euthanasia and assisted suicide - in order to comply with the Supreme Court decision in Carter v. Carter case.

What Can Christ's Disciples Do?

- Pray and Fast
- Sign on-line and circulate in your network of friends, family co-workers "The Catholic Bishops' and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide".
- Take the time to learn more about the issue and then write your elected member of parliament.
- Share your belief through traditional and social media.

The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (www.epca.ca) has published numerous articles on euthanasia which can be found by following the blog link.

You can also respond to an editorial which recently appeared in the Canadian Medical Association Journal entitled "Right to die in Canada: respecting the wishes of physician conscientious objectors" (<http://www.cmaj.ca/187/18/1339.full>).

COLF is co-sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Bishops and the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus (www.colf.ca). This is an excerpt from their response to the CPSO invitation to comment on Interim Guidance on Physician Assisted Death:

"We are deeply concerned that Canadian Physicians will find themselves under pressure to answer positively request from patients for assisted death. Palliative care is not readily available to Canadians. It is essential that palliative care be made accessible to all citizens in need of it. We recommend that the CPSO encourage its members to do everything in their power to eliminate the need for assisted death. This can be done by providing effective pain management and by offering compassionate human and spiritual care to ill and dying Canadians."

I encourage you to read the League's [position paper on euthanasia and assisted suicide](#). You can also view the League's [call for a national palliative care strategy](#).

Pope Francis says we cannot simply stand by, something must change. Our families need to become more evident signs of God's patient and merciful love, not only for our children and elders, but to all those in need. By simple gestures, simple prayerful actions which honor Christ we can bring the power of his love into the world and truly change it (November 28, 2015).

Be a light of Christ in the World.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Knudson