

## Education and Health Communiqué #1 - September 2017

**To:** Parish Council Education & Health Chairpersons

**From:** Sharon Mayor, Diocesan Education and Health Chairperson

Do you remember when Barbara Dowding, National Past President, added to the 2014 to 2016 theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission: Palliative and Hospice Care?*

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's mandate in his letter to Dr. Philpott, Federal Minister of Health, was to "support delivery of more and better health care services. This includes more access to high quality caregivers, financial supports for family care, and when necessary, palliative care;" ([p.m.gc.ca/eng/ministerial-mandate-letters](http://p.m.gc.ca/eng/ministerial-mandate-letters)). At the 2016 National Convention the 2016.04 Resolution was passed, Amending the Canada Health Act to identify Palliative Care as insured Health Service.

**\*Note: As of August 29 The Honorable Ginette Taylor is now the Federal Minister of Health.**

What can we do?

- Designate a day in May to 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.
- Write letters to Honorable Ginette Taylor, Federal Minister of Health and Provincial Minister of Health, Honorable Jim Reiter.
- Pray, pray, pray. Ask your elderly members to pray for this amendment.

***It takes a whole group to rally for a cause. – Margaret Ann Jacob, National President***

All Catholic and non-Catholic students will attend Catholic Schools across the province. Premier Brad Wall invoked the notwithstanding clause of The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The premier strongly stated that parents should choose the school they wish their children to attend. The Saskatchewan Catholic School Board will appeal the recent decision in the Theodore court case.

The *Art of Dying Well* website ([art of dying website.org](http://artofdyingwebsite.org)) set up by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales gives us insight into the questions asked by those nearing death. Episode 2 of the Art of Dying deals with Palliative Care. A must read is *The Measure of My Days* by Dr. Thomas Bouchard which is a collection of good deaths. This book can be purchased at [justinpress.ca](http://justinpress.ca)

My friend revealed that, after returning from visiting her mother this summer in the hospital and in the care home, her mother thought that she had gone to the hospital to die. When her mother realized she would return to the care home, although she spoke fondly of the care and her friends at this location, she wanted her family to request her end of life. Her daughter's answer was, "It is not for us to decide. It is for Jesus." Her mother said no more.

*Many are the plans in man's heart, but it is the Lord's Purpose that prevails. Proverbs 19:21*

Let us continue to pray for quality hospice palliative care.