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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
From: Judy Lewis National Chairperson of Christian Family Life
Date: April 22, 2016

First the good news! The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a National Pastoral Initiative for Life and Family. This is found on www.cccb.ca under the tab "Our Church in Canada and the World", then the tab "Life and Family", then the link "Documents and activities proposed by the CCCB". Each week, suggestions are posted for a homily, a prayer of the faithful or an insight that may be used to foster the abundant life that Jesus came to bring us. These suggestions can also be easily adapted for family and personal prayer, or for presentations when participating with other groups or organizations.

How can we get this information out to the parish? A few suggestions are:

- Print the website address in the parish bulletin along with a brief explanation.
- Provide the information to the catechetical ministry coordinator.
- Ask that the information be given to students to take home to work together with their parents.

Now for the bad news! The Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) has published its response to *Medical Assistance in Dying: A Patient-Centred Approach*, the report of the federal government's Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying. The recommendations made in the report are both disappointing and stunning. The committee recommends that "medical assistance in dying" (MAID) be provided to patients with both terminal and non-terminal conditions, including those suffering from psychiatric illness. It also recommends that "mature minors" be considered eligible for MAID within three years following the passage of the legislation and that advanced requests be made available any time after diagnosis.

COLF states this "is our last chance to bring pressure to bear on this critical issue." The federal government is required to bring in legislation by June 6th. Contact your member of parliament and senators in your area. There are no safeguards that can protect people when there is a law making it legal to take a life! For more detailed information got to www.colf.ca.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us and guide each of us as we work "For God and Canada."

Judy Lewis
National Chairperson of Christian Family Life