



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Erica Johnson
Communications Coordinator
C-702 Scotland Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINNIPEG, Manitoba—November 16, 2015—The Catholic Women's League of Canada, with over 85,000 members across Canada, is preparing its celebrations for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, focusing on the theme of palliative care. The Holy Year will commence December 8th in Rome and end on November 20, 2016, on the Solemnity of Christ the King. It will be a time of grace and renewed enthusiasm along the path of the new evangelization and pastoral conversion.

"The focus of the overarching theme of palliative care will include hospice, elder care, education, workshops, speakers and a national strategy," explained National President Barbara Dowding. "At a time in Canadian history when the law banning assisted suicide is in the twilight hours of its 12-month suspended declaration of validity, the call for compassionate care until natural death is an urgent priority."

The League, comprised of eleven provincial councils across the country including the Military Ordinariate, is united in protecting the sanctity of human life and its respect for natural death. In 2014, the League reaffirmed its [position paper on euthanasia and assisted suicide](#) that outlines the League's opposition to any deliberate killing of another human being, including killing by way of euthanasia or assisted suicide, or killing out of a spirit of compassion when someone's condition is judged to be terminal or lacking in quality of life.

Each member of society is unique, including the underprivileged, disabled, sick or infirm whose dignity needs to be honoured, respected and protected. The League will continue to urge for the adequate training of health care professionals in pain management and support those in the health care profession who offer compassionate and competent [palliative care](#) services for the dying, their families and their friends. The formation of palliative care teams in all communities across Canada is something for which the League will continue to strive.

Also during this Holy Year, the League, through its community life standing committee, will encourage members and all Canadians to welcome refugees seeking protection from current conflicts in the Middle East. Members are encouraged to sponsor families, make financial contributions, educate themselves on the Middle East and inter-religious dialogue, and continue to pray for tolerance and peace. In 2014, the League adopted [Resolution 2014.01 Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants](#), which urges the federal government to reinstate health care for all refugee claimants comparable to coverage for Canadians on social assistance.

Other activities planned for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy include taking pilgrimages, corporal acts of mercy and compiling spiritual bouquets.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cwl.ca/>

About the Catholic Women's League of Canada

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is one of the largest organizations of women in Canada with more than 85,000 members represented in every province and territory and the military. The League is organized and pledged to serve all citizens and has often received the commendation and a keen appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nationwide membership.