



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Legislations Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Theresa Ryan, Legislation Chairperson

Date: March 2018

Directive # 9

Luke 16:10: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

Election day in Ontario is June 7, 2018. Begin now to determine who the candidates are in your area and think of issues important to you. Then ask questions. These elected people are supposed to represent **you**.

Private member's Bill C-277 *Framework on Palliative Care Act in Canada* received royal assent December 12, 2017. I encourage members to contact the Ontario minister of health and their M.P.P. to ensure that this new legislation is carried out in our province.

From National Legislation chair, Nancy Simms: **Resolution 2017.04 Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals:** On January 31, 2018 the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Divisional Court) upheld the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's policies regarding the requirement that physicians who have ethical objections to certain acts, including euthanasia and abortion, must refer patients to healthcare professionals who will provide the act, even though the court recognized that this violates the physicians' rights to religious freedom. If this can happen in Ontario, it can happen in all provinces. Encourage members to contact all levels of government urging that coercing healthcare professionals into referring for or performing procedures that are in opposition to their charter rights of freedom of conscience and religion be considered an offence.

While there are many important issues I think Healthcare is in the forefront. We have read recently of Canadians dying while waiting to be transferred to a hospital room and no room was available. I know that we must face cuts but Health Care is very important. Talk to your representatives.

This year you have the ability to vote in a new C.W.L. executive. Please do your due diligence and don't just bump everyone up the line. May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless you as you continue in your work in Legislation.

Committee: Legislations Standing Committee
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