Interfaith Leaders speak out against euthanasia & assisted suicide

In a rare demonstration of unity, interfaith leaders from across the country have denounced government proposals to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide. The Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide has been endorsed by over 30 Christian denominations together with over 20 Jewish and Muslim leaders from across Canada. In light of the Supreme Court of Canada’s ruling in R. v. Carter, the joint statement advocates for palliative care, respect for the dignity of the human person, human solidarity and psychological, spiritual and emotional support as the ethical and moral response in end-of-life care. The declaration was released at an October 29th news conference on Parliament Hill by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC).

The declaration states that the Carter decision, which declared the ban on assisted suicide unconstitutional, "compels each of us as Canadians to reflect upon our personal and societal response to those who need our compassion and care." Addressing the underlying importance of human dignity, the signatories affirm that "the sanctity of all human life, and the equal and inviolable dignity of every human being... is not exclusively a religious belief, although for us it has a significant religious meaning." The signatories emphasize that reverence for human life must be "the basis and reason for our compassion, responsibility and commitment in caring for all humans, our brothers and sisters, when they are suffering and in pain... to work to alleviate human suffering in every form but never by intentionally eliminating those who suffer."

The signatories to the Declaration urge "federal, provincial and territorial legislators to enact and uphold laws that enhance human solidarity by promoting the rights to life and security for all people; to make good-quality home care and palliative care accessible in all jurisdictions; and to implement regulations and policies that ensure respect for the freedom of conscience of all health-care workers and administrators who will not and cannot accept suicide or euthanasia as a medical solution to pain and suffering."

The speakers at the news conference included the following representatives: Ms. Julia Beazley, Policy Analyst, EFC; Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, C.M., Congregation Machzikei Hadas, Ottawa; Dr. Aileen Van Ginkel, Vice President, Ministry Services, EFC; Sister Nuala Kenny, SC; OC, MD, FRCP, a pediatrician and former Deputy Minister of Health in the province of Nova Scotia, also speaking on behalf of the CCCB; Imam Sany Metwally Ottawa Main Mosque/Ottawa Muslim Association; and the Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Catholic Archbishop of Ottawa and CCCB representative. The Declaration and its list of signatories can be viewed at the following website: www.euthanasiadeclaration.ca.

"While Canadian society continues to affirm the importance of human dignity, there is a worrisome tendency to define this subjectively and emotionally. For us, human dignity is most properly understood as the value of a person’s life before her or his Creator and within a social network of familial and societal relationships. We are convinced the only ways to help people live and die with dignity are: to ensure they are supported by love and care; to provide holistic care which includes pain control as well as psychological, spiritual and emotional support; and, to improve and increase resources in support of palliative and home care."

- Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide
http://www.euthanasiadeclaration.ca/declaration/

St. Joseph’s College Chapel Bulletin

Administered by the Basilian Fathers. The Roman Catholic Chaplaincy at the U of A.

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Pray for our Refugee Family

Please keep our refugee family in your prayers: parents Iwan and Zamzam; and their young daughters, Karima and Ayat.

Liturgy Schedule

Weekend Mass
(Located in Main Chapel)
Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am, 11:00 am & 7pm

Weekday Mass
(Located in Women’s Residence)
Mon & Wed 12:10 pm
Tues & Thurs 12:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Located in Main Chapel)
Tues 11:30 -12:20

Giving all that she had...

In today’s Gospel, Mark contrasts the rich scribes with the poor widow, who has put far less money in the treasury box than other people. She has contributed all she had from her livelihood and has shown her total trust in God by doing so. This story of the widow’s offering suggests that faithful giving—and faithful living—are for the sake of the giver as much, if not more than, for the sake of the recipients. Our ability to be good stewards of God’s many gifts requires a conversion of outlook from self-centered to God-centered. As disciples of Christ, we are called to share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with all of God’s people.
Book Club Meeting

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov 10th at 7 pm in SJC 1-01 to discuss The Martian by Andy Weir. And, as always, if anybody doesn’t have time to read the whole book, no problem ... just read as much of it as you want. Contact Denise Young (deyoung@ualberta.ca) for more information. All are welcome!

The Voice from Assisi

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park is pleased to present an evening of music and song featuring internationally acclaimed Friar Alessandro along with the Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School Choir. Join us at the church, 13 Brower Drive, on Thursday, November 19, for Mass at 6:15 p.m., followed by the concert at 7. Tickets are $15 in advance through the parish office, or $20 at the door. For more information, call 780-467-5470.

Nostra Aetate 50th Anniversary Celebration

Nostra Aetate was a landmark document issued at the Second Vatican Council, in which the Church rescinded what has come to be known as its centuries-old “teachings of contempt” toward Jewish people. This document effectively reset Jewish-Catholic relations in the modern era and opened the way for the positive relationships we enjoy today.

You are invited to join Bishop Gregory Bittman, Rabbi Daniel Friedman, Father Lawrence Frizzell, and Rabbi Kikel Rose for a Jewish and Catholic Celebration of Nostra Aetate’s 50th Anniversary: A Call to Love in our Time on Sunday, November 29, 7-9 p.m. at Beth Israel Synagogue, 131 Wolf Willow Road, Edmonton. For more information contact Julien Hammond at jhammond@caedm.ca.

Eccumenical Taizé Pilgrimage: July 22 - August 1, 2016

Young adults from all over Edmonton are planning a trip to the Community of Taizé in France. Information Evenings will take place on Wednesday, November 18, at 7 p.m. at Christ Church Anglican Parish, 12116 - 102 Avenue, Edmonton, and again on Tuesday, December 8, at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, 18407 - 60 Avenue. The pilgrimage is open to all young adults 18 – 29 years of age at the time of travel. Visit www.Taize2016.jimdo.com for more information.

ECS Community Consultation

Edmonton Catholic Schools invites you to participate in the community consultation on the Draft Board Stand Alone Policy on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression that was given first reading at the October 13th Public Board Meeting. The community consultation is being held to collect comments and suggestions from all of our stakeholders regarding the draft policy. To submit your comments online or to read the Draft Board Stand Alone Policy on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression, go to www.ecsd.net and click on the Consultation banner.

Salt+Light TV free

Did you know that Salt+Light TV, Canada’s Catholic channel, is offering a free preview through November? Find their excellent programming on Channel 160 if you’re a Shaw subscriber in Edmonton, or check out http://saltandlighttv.org/subscribe for availability on other cable providers.

Appointment of President and Academic Dean

This note is to advise you that Fr. Terry Kersch’s term as President and Dr. Brian Maraj’s term as Academic Dean of St. Joseph’s College will be concluding in June, 2016. Both Fr. Terry and Dr. Maraj have chosen to stand for renewal for their respective positions.

In accordance with section 5.2.6 of the SJC Policies and Procedures, an Advisory Review Committee for each position is in process of being established.

I have been asked by the Chair of the Board, the Archbishop, to Chair both of these Committees. I have also asked that Sara McKeon assist me with the administrative components of these processes.

Members of the St. Joe’s community are invited to provide input in confidence to each Committee. All input must either be signed and in writing or sent by e-mail to me (Kevin.Feehan@dentons.com) or to Sara McKeon (sara.mckeon@ualberta.ca) no later than Monday, November 16, 2015. Members of the community may ask the Chair to have their input provided to the committee anonymously.

As a guide, the position descriptions for the President and for the Academic Dean will be posted on the College website with a form that can be printed to provide your feedback. - Kevin Feehan, QC

National Addictions Awareness Week – November 15-21

Many Catholics know someone with an addiction. Addictions affect the person with the addiction, their families, friends, and communities. There are many resources for the person with the addiction and those they affect to receive help and hope. This week helps us learn about various addictions, the resources available, as well as to pray for those affected and offer our love and support. Among the free resources are 12-Step programs, which offer mutual support and informal education. Group meetings are anonymous, confidential, and supported by voluntary contributions. For more information, visit http://www.al-anon.alateen.org or www.al-anon.ab.ca.