



February 2018

My dear friends,

Thank you for all that you currently do to support and strengthen our Catholic community. Please keep me in your prayers as I do all of you.

It is troubling that, with increasing frequency, our faith community faces significant challenges in the public square. Two recent examples are the lack of conscience protection for health care workers who are asked to participate in assisted suicide and the federal government's insistence that faith groups disavow their key values in order to receive Canada Summer Jobs grants. It is important that we are educated on such issues and that our voices are heard in response.

Periodically, I would like to contact you directly or through a trusted faith partner to share information in a timely manner on issues such as health care, education and religious freedom. For this reason, I encourage you to participate in a "Sign-Up Sunday" being held in your parish and across the Archdiocese of Toronto.

I ask all parishioners to provide their name, postal code and email address on lists available at parishes on designated weekends in late February and early March. Anticipating a provincial election this June, we will begin with an awareness campaign around conscience rights related to assisted suicide/euthanasia. In 2017, more than 30,000 letters were sent to local Members of Provincial Parliament. The 2018 Call for Conscience campaign has the following goals:

- 1) to renew the call to protect the right of health care professionals to abstain from any involvement in causing the death of their patients;
- 2) to provide protection for faith-based facilities that do not wish to participate in assisted suicide/euthanasia; and
- 3) to ask elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and those seeking office to increase access and funding for palliative care in Ontario.

When you provide your personal information, be assured it will be kept confidential and you can unsubscribe from the program at any time. You will only receive an email from me or groups I trust on these important issues. Initially, you will receive an email from the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience, providing a link to contact candidates in your riding and the leaders of our provincial parties to respectfully express your concern. The whole process, done electronically, takes only five minutes. If you do not have an email account, draft letters will be available to send to your MPP.

I hope that you will assist me by participating in "Sign-Up Sunday". It is critical that we use modern technology to communicate effectively, ensuring our voice is heard in the public square. Please join me as we pray for all those suffering and for those entrusted to care for them.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Thomas Card. Collins

Thomas Collins
Archbishop of Toronto