



**Urgent appeal to all Catholics: we must pray and act  
to say “yes” to accessible palliative care for all in Québec,  
but “no” to euthanasia**

The new government of Québec has made known its plan to put back on the National Assembly’s agenda a proposed bill concerning “end-of-life care” that would allow physicians to practice euthanasia. Such a law would have serious and destructive consequences for the future of Québec.

To cause death is not a form of care. Using expressions like “dying with dignity” and “medical aid in dying” to describe lethal injections only misleads and sows confusion. We are talking about euthanasia, pure and simple.

Of course we understand the anguish and sorrow of all those who have listened to a loved one ask for death in the throes of dying painfully; nobody could remain indifferent to such distress. However, the real answer of medicine and of society to this situation is palliative care: palliative care is the best way to soothe the suffering of one who is approaching the end of life, and to help them to live this final step with humanity and dignity.

Palliative care has proven its worth. Here in Québec, we have all the skill and all the experience needed to make palliative care available in every region. This is what we hope for from the National Assembly: that Québec should craft for itself a policy on universal palliative care.

Let us pray, then, for our MNAs, that every one of them might open his or her heart and conscience to the working of the Holy Spirit. Let us not hesitate to contact them, in person, in a group letter, or even by means of a petition, to ask that all Quebecers might, at the end of their lives, benefit from real care for the dying - in the form of palliative care, and not of euthanasia which is its opposite.

Over the next few weeks, may our prayer for these intentions be frequent and intense and be nourished by the Word of God and the sacraments. Let us pray by ourselves, in heart-to-heart communication with the Lord, and also with others, in the liturgy, adoration, praise and worship, and the Rosary. Finally, as the great tradition of the Church invites us to, let us join acts of penance, fasting, self-giving and sharing to our prayer.

+ Pierre-André Fournier  
Archbishop of Rimouski  
president of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Québec

May 13, 2014, feast of Our Lady of Fatima



### ***Suggestions for the Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday celebrations***

Now that the government of Québec has announced its plan to put back on the National Assembly's agenda a bill that would legalize euthanasia, under the name "medical aid in dying", let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

- In his Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel", Pope Francis issued the following call: *"Small yet strong in the love of God, like Saint Francis of Assisi, all of us, as Christians, are called to watch over and protect the fragile world in which we live, and all its peoples."*

May the Lord grant us the strength and courage to draw near to the gravely ill and the dying, so as to be witnesses to them of God's love and of hope for eternal life.

We pray to the Lord.

- Lord, hear our prayer

- Let us pray for our Members of the National Assembly. May they open their hearts and their conscience to the light of the Holy Spirit, and may they join their efforts together so that all Quebecers might benefit, at the end of life from a genuine care for the dying in the form of palliative care, and not of euthanasia.

We pray to the Lord.

- Lord, hear our prayer

May 13, 2014