



ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

5340 4 St. SW Calgary AB T2V 0Z5 403-252-1137 fax 403-255-7796

info@stanthonysyyc.ca www.stanthonysyyc.ca

Facebook: St. Anthony's Catholic Parish

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 25, 2020

Those who hope in the Lord renew their strength ISAIAH 40:31

Novena For Catholic Education

OCT. 29 TO NOV. 6, 2020

We are grateful for our Catholic Schools. We invite you to join us in prayer for Catholic Education by praying the following novena daily, from Oct. 29 until Nov. 6, 2020, asking Our Lord to send forth His Spirit.

Leader Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
All And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created,
All And you will renew the face of the earth.

Leader Let us pray:
All Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
All as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Weekend Schedule

Saturday	Confessions	4:00 pm
	English Mass	5:00 pm
Sunday	Confessions	6:45 am
	Latin Mass	7:15 am
	English Mass	9:00 am
	English Mass	10:30 am
	Confessions	Noon
	Latin Mass	12:30 pm

Weekday Schedule

Monday	Confessions	6:30 am
	Latin Mass	7:00 am
	Confessions	8:30 am
Tuesday	English Mass	9:00 am
	Confessions	6:30 am
	Latin Mass	7:00 am
Wednesday	Confessions	8:30 am
	English Mass	9:00 am
	Confession	11:30 am
Thursday	Latin Mass	Noon
	Confession	6:30 pm
	English Mass	7:00 pm
	Confession	8:30 am
	English Mass	9:00 am
Friday	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	9:30 am
	Confessions	6:00 pm
	Benediction	6:00 pm
	Latin Mass	7:00 pm
	Confession	8:30 am
Saturday	English Mass	9:00 am
	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	9:30 am
	Confessions	6:00 pm
	Benediction	6:00 pm
	Latin Mass	7:00 pm

Covid & The Call to Faith

Responsibility for the Common Good | COVID & t... Watch later Share

COVID & THE Call to Faith

Week 5

Responsibility for the Common Good

Panelists

- Dr. Shawn Flynn
- Dr. Peter Ballutis
- Ms. Martina Norwegian
- Rev. Kris Schmidt
- Mr. Gerald Sseguya

Watch Panel Discussion Video Week 5 at

<https://grandinmedia.ca/bishops-reflections-on-covid/>
Weekly Reflection (PDF) is appended to this bulletin

Pastor Fr. Edmund Vargas ext 224 or 587-349-9615
Associate Pastor Fr. John Shannon, FSSP ext 226 or 403-714-7361
In Residence Fr. John Petravicius, Fr. Anthony Pudota
Deacon Ron Nowell
Bookkeeper Magda Aguillon ext 223
Janitorial Service Polmax Ecology Cleaning Ltd.

On Temporary Leave:
 John Morgan Music Director
 Heather Schilling Parish Secretary
 Dorothy Loucks Sacramental Preparation
 Maria Teresa Valez Accountant
 Dianne McKay Office Assistant

Pastoral Notes

The Commandment of Love

In the gospel, Christ gives His followers the mandate to love another just as He loved them. Love becomes the transforming power of the lives of the early believers. Christ's new commandment of love makes all things new.

Indeed, Christ's example of love and sacrifice invites us to love beyond ourselves. It is this kind of selfless and unconditional love which Christ has shown us that conquers sin and even death itself. With this kind of love, death is transformed from the taking away of life into a voluntary return of the gift of life to the Giver of life.

Love reaches the eternal level when it goes beyond ourselves, when we are able to love others more than ourselves. It is this kind of love that makes our human relationships last, transforming to eternity. This kind of love outlives death, defeating death's power over us. Unconditional and selfless love is the real measure of Christian life. His kind of love is the reason for the resurrection.

Our love for one another has to be filled with the love that inspires the Eucharist, the living memorial of Christ's love for us. This re-enactment of Christ's sacrifice in Calvary, which is the ultimate expression of His self-giving, inspires and powers us to love as he does. The love which Christ left as a legacy is the greatest of God's gifts.

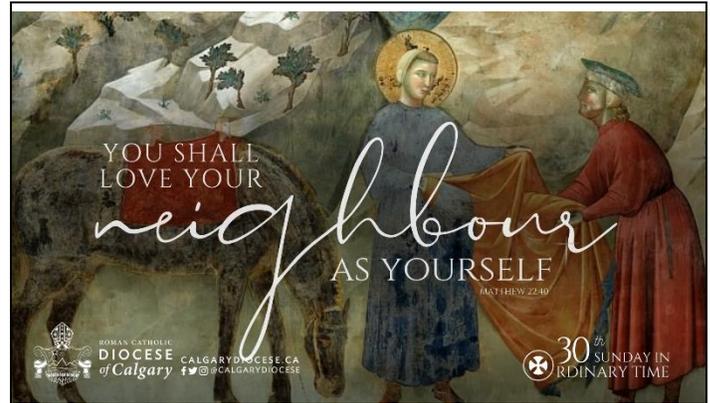
When we learn to love as Christ loves, we learn to believe and hope without seeing. In one of his writings, St. Augustine once declared: "He (Christ) disappeared before our eyes, that we might find Him in our hearts." As we continue to deal with this pandemic, let us continue to discover the love that Christ has placed in our hearts.

HEALING CORNER

Faith communities and faith leaders have a unique role to play in responding to the needs of abuse victims and their families. First and foremost, faith communities need to be safe places to disclose abuse. Persons of faith who are abused often feel that their spirit has been broken, that God does not care about their life, that they are worthless in every way. The healing journey from victim to survivor is long and arduous; ongoing emotional support and many caregivers are required. Many persons of faith who are abused would like assistance from both community agencies and their faith fellowship.

FR EDMUND'S UPDATE

Registration for the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** is open during the course of the year... Please submit a Registration (available online) and submit to the office. Upon receipt, Fr Edmund will contact you for an in-person initial interview or phone or online chat. Resources books are available.



A Pastoral Visit by Bishop William McGrattan is scheduled for December 11-13, 2020. A Pastoral Visit involves a comprehensive appreciation of our parish structures, activities and pastoral relevance. He will meet with various groups, including the schools within our jurisdiction (St Anthony's School and St Augustine's School) as well families or individuals on a one-on-one basis by appointment. A Deacon usually accompanies him to help out in the process, including documentation. He will review our finances, physical plant as well as our organizational set-up. After the visit, a report is made with actions to be made and other recommendations

We have submitted a **Budget for 2021** which would aim for 70% of our three-year average (2017-2018) income, with the required adjustments in expenses. This means a much smaller or skeletal staff and more volunteerism in all areas of ministry. Hopefully, with your continued support for the parish, we will be able to cover the required income to sustain our operations. We are really appreciative of your love and generosity.

The official transition of our current **Pantry into St Vincent de Paul Society** will be launched after the completion of the Christmas Hampers program this year. All current volunteers of the current Pantry will have to indicate their interest to continue to be part of the outreach program by formal Registration, a form of which is available online. **Those who are interested to help in the 2020 Christmas Hamper program can contact the office or Fr Edmund directly.** We owe it to our community to cater to the growing needs of our needy in our midst who find it more and more difficult to cope with life's essentials, more especially during this pandemic.

The first scheduled in-person 30-minute session for the **First Reconciliation Preparation** is this **Sunday immediately after the 10:30am Mass.** Families can contact Fr Edmund with their Registration Forms and arrange pick-up of the home workbook, even after the published registration deadline (October 24). Fr Edmund will be available for in-person meeting, telephone conversation or online chat to support the parents and candidates in their preparation work. There is no required registration fees to cover materials. Voluntary contributions are welcome though.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Oct 25

7:15am Latin	SI	special intention
9am English	RIP	Rose Lutula
	RIP	Souls in Purgatory
10:30am English	SI	Parishioners of St. Anthony's
12:30 pm Latin	SI	special intention

Monday, Oct 26

7am Latin	SI	special intention
9am English	RIP	Teresita Tabuno
	RIP	Rose Lutula

Tuesday, Oct 27

7am Latin	SI	Special intention
9am English	SI	Ted Reyes
	RIP	Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, Oct 28

Noon Latin	SI	special intention
7pm English	SI	Fr. Dennis Vavrek, ofm
	RIP	William & Barbara Saruga

Thursday, Oct 29

9am English	RIP	Joseph Popp
	RIP	Rose Lutula
7pm Latin	SI	special intention

Friday, Oct 30

9am English	RIP	Rose Lutula
	RIP	Souls in Purgatory
7pm Latin	SI	special intention

Saturday, Oct 31

9am Latin	SI	special intention
5pm English	RIP	All Souls

LATIN MASS CALENDAR

Sunday Oct 25	1 st CL	CHRIST THE KING
Sunday Nov 1	1 st CL	ALL SAINTS DAY
Monday Nov 2	1 ST CL	ALL SOULS DAY
Sunday Nov 8	2 nd CL	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK

Rose Dourado, Ken Foran, Faye LaPaz,
Leanne Morgan, Charlene Munn, and
Corazon Reyes

**May the Lord grant them healing, comfort,
and peace.**

REST IN PEACE

Anthony Carroll, Mary Hess, and Marie Stang

Our heartfelt sympathies to their families.

**May their souls and the souls of all the
faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.**

Our **Fencing** Initiative bordering Macleod Trail is on hold due to the onset of the cold season. So far, most of the posts are now in place in the holes, waiting for some Chinook wonder for an opportunity to pour cement into the holes. We are grateful for the great effort of Rico Festa for securing the City Permit, buying the lumber at a bargain, soliciting help from whoever he can and doing most of the work, with some help from Al Meier and Mario Carrera. Al and Mario have been volunteering in electrical work and gardening, respectively.

The Seven-Day Candle intentions have run out. The said candle request had been available in the Adoration Chapel. Since the closure of the chapel due to the pandemic, it has been transferred to the main altar, next to the Blessed Sacrament. The request forms are available at the Welcome Desk and at stanthonyssyc.ca/adoration.

During an **October 20 zoom meeting with priests**, the Bishop has commended the parishes for their compliance with the diocesan guidelines. But he also mentioned violations reported to authorities in the area of wearing masks and physical distancing. A reminder was made about responses to Mass parts which should be modulated and exerting the least air pressure to avoid spread of possible virus particles in the air in our churches where there is zero air circulation. A face mask would help in minimizing air pressure. This is part of the reason at Holy Communion the recipient does NOT respond "Amen", after having responded earlier to the priest's invitation at the altar before he distributes the sacred species individually. As we are at risk to reverting to earlier restrictions due to the rising number of new cases, we have to take more seriously our responsibility of protecting and caring for each other.

We pray for health, healing, and holiness.

DONATIONS IN OCTOBER

	BUDGET	COLLECTION	DIFFERENCE
MTD	\$32,815	\$38,334.98	\$5,519.98
YTD	\$344,644	\$304,939.77	(\$39,704.23)

	GOAL	COLLECTION	DIFFERENCE
TIA 2020	\$41,030	\$16,295.45	(\$24,734.55)
Refuge Family	\$30,000	\$28,750	(\$1,250)

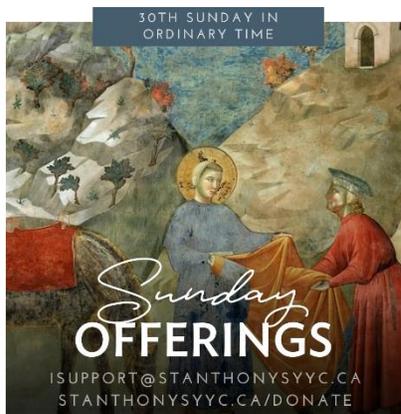
St. Anthony's 10:30 AM Sunday Livestream Mass



Watch livestream on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING

Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. We offer many convenient ways for you to make your contributions including: sign in to your own banking institution and e-transfer the amount to:



isupport@stanthonysyyc.ca; or to donate by credit card, or register for pre-authorized debit withdrawal visit stanthonysyyc.ca/donation; you may also mail your cheques to St. Anthony's Church 5340 4 St. SW Calgary, AB T2V 0Z5, or drop off your donation envelopes into our donation box in the church foyer when you come to Mass. You are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. Thank you for your generosity.



WEEKLY ADORATION

If there is anything you need, pray for it. Philippians 4:6

[Red Altar Candle Offering](#)

Thursday and Friday 9:30 am – 6:00 pm.

[Register in advance](#) or sign in.

A minimum of 2 people per hour are required.

OCTOBER IS ROSARY MONTH

The Praying of the Holy Rosary will be held every Saturday during October 10-11am in the main church. Online registration is an option, and walk-ins are welcome. Wellness protocols, including contact tracing documentation, start at 10am. Rosary starts at 10:15am after when the doors are closed and locked. No latecomers are allowed. The Rosary ends before 10:45am, to make room for exit of participants and the cleaning and disinfecting of pews and other surfaces. Mask are mandated. All are welcome. The celebration is hosted by the Legion of Mary.

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOL NOTES

As the weather becomes colder, we can no longer leave the front door propped open before Mass. The door will be unlocked 30 minutes prior to Mass and locked after the start of Mass when all are inside. Please arrive early to avoid lineups. You may use the assist button to open the door. Please ensure that the prescribed social distance of 6 feet is maintained between your family cohort and others especially when entering and exiting the church. Please wear masks anytime you are moving throughout the building.

During the 10:30 Sunday Mass there may be two communion lines to ensure that the time to serve communion is kept as short as possible. Please ensure that you maintain the prescribed 6 feet between you and the person in front of you. Please wear your masks even if you are seated until everyone is served.

To assist our sanitizing crew after all Masses, please leave your kneeler down to indicate that the pew has been occupied. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our Masses safe and COVID free.

PARISH ENVELOPES 2021

We are preparing for the distribution of parish envelopes for the coming year. As more people are moving to other forms of donations, we will be reducing the number of boxes of envelopes and **assigning new numbers**.

It is important that all unused 2020 envelopes be recycled after January 1.

If you would like to register for Pre-Authorized withdrawal you can do so at <https://stanthonysyyc.ca/direct-debit/>.

2021 Envelopes will be available to pick up after Masses on the weekends of November 8 and November 15.

For assistance with planning your donations for 2021 or to request that your envelopes be mailed to you, please email Magda at accounting@stanthonysyyc.ca.

PANTRY TO ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



We are now planning our transition from our Pantry to become a "conference" or branch or affiliate with the wider society. All members of the current Pantry and others who are interested are invited to become part of the new setup by completing the [SSVP new member form](#) and emailing it to Fr. Edmund at efvargas@shaw.ca.



Faithfully October Edition "From the farm to your table" is now available online!

Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation - Leadership Program

Launched in 2015, the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation (CWLF) Leadership Program has supported the development of transformative leadership skills in Catholic women across the country through its program at Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality at Saint Paul University. The women from 22 different dioceses across Canada, including from your own diocese, who have completed the program, have taken their newfound leadership skills and education based on Catholic social teachings to their workplaces, churches, communities, and homes.

CWLF is accepting applications for their 2021-2022 program. Please spread the word about this program and include this in the parish bulletins.

"Are you called to join other Canadian Catholic women learning how your leadership has the power to transform where you work, volunteer and live? Applications are now available for the 2021-2022 Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation Program. The in-person and online program facilitated by the Providence School of Transformational Leadership and Spirituality at Saint Paul University (Ottawa) runs from April/21 to May/22. Please visit www.cwlfcanada.ca - Application deadline November 20, 2020"

If you have any questions about the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation or our program, please contact me at info@cwlfcanada.ca or 604-813-1612.

Calling Mission Mexico Ambassadors

Ever wondered what Mission Mexico does? Want to get involved? Join us for a Zoom chat with in-country coordinator Mike MacDonald and friends to find out more.

Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85694934666?pwd=Yy9JaVV2cit4NzhTdXJZQ210VVlrUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 9493 4666 | Passcode: 403

Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 10:00 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84064870959?pwd=R3M4bU05bWF2K2ZyS05BTlpTVkhOUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 6487 0959 | Passcode: 403

Admission to Candidacy for Permanent Diaconate

On Sunday, October 18, 2020, twelve men were admitted as a Candidate for formation for the Permanent Diaconate in a special celebration at St. Mary's Cathedral with Bishop William McGrattan. Please join us in supporting them in prayer, so that they may draw closer to Christ and be his witnessed in the world as they continue their formation program. Here are our new Permanent Diaconate candidates:

- Peter Lilienthal, All Saints Parish, Lethbridge
- James Manzara, All Saints Parish, Lethbridge
- John Arbeau, Ascension Parish, Calgary
- Ricardo Rosero, Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, Calgary
- Thomas Ha, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Calgary
- Ferdinand Gayos, St. Albert the Great, Calgary
- Reynaldo Tadifa, St. Albert the Great, Calgary
- Brian Kinahan, St. Augustine's, Taber
- Andrew Ross, St. Joseph's, Calgary
- Bruce Barnett, St. Martha's, Lethbridge
- Randy Gritter, St. Michael's, Calgary
- Carlos Perez, St. Thomas More, Calgary

CCCB Releases Statement in Response to the Re-tabling of Bill C-7, an Act to Amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying).

As the legislation introduced this month remains unchanged from that which was tabled on 24 February 2020, the Bishops of Canada once again express their serious concerns regarding Bill C-7 and call upon all Canadians to express their opposition to the Bill. As said in the statement: "The proposed legislation of Bill C-7 remains deeply flawed, unjust, and morally pernicious. The Bishops of Canada call on



Catholics and all people of good will to make their voices heard in opposition to the Bill. Similarly, all Canadian legislators should recall that no law that permits the taking of innocent human life can ever be morally justified. Such a law would always violate the intrinsic dignity of the human person." Please read the statement appended to this bulletin.



ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SACRAMENT MATTERS

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Registration Deadline: October 24

In-Person 30-minute Session with Fr Edmund in the church after the Sunday 10:30 Mass: October 25, November 8, November 22 & December 6.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: **December 15, 7pm** or by appointment.

FIRST EUCHARIST/COMMUNION

Registration Deadline: January 24

In-Person 30-minute Session with Fr Edmund in the church after the Sunday, 10:30am Mass: January 24, February 7, February 21 & March 7.

First Communion Mass: **March 14, 10:30am Mass** or by appointment.

CONFIRMATION

Registration Deadline: April 11

In-person 30-minute Session with Fr Edmund in the church after the Sunday 10:30am Mass: April 11, April 25, May 9 & May 23.

Confirmation Mass is on **Saturday, May 29, 5pm**.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

Please arrange an interview with Fr Edmund at any time with your Registration Form. The home study program will be explained accordingly. The program culminates with the celebration at the Easter Vigil (April 3)

BAPTISM

Please submit a Registration for Baptism Form, together with a copy of the child's birth certificate. Upon receipt, Fr Edmund will contact you for an interview and scheduling of the celebration.

An online Baptism Class is scheduled every 4th Saturday of the month, 10am to 12noon, facilitated by Ferdie & Malou Gayos of the Missionary Families for Christ (MFC).

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS & ANNOINTING OF THE SICK SPIRITUAL DIRECTION or PASTORAL CONSULTATION

Contact Fr. Edmund to arrange.

St. Anthony's Church
5340 4th St. SW, Calgary, AB T2V 0Z5



403 -252-1137
403-255-7796



www.stanthonysyc.ca
St. Anthony's Catholic Parish

Pastor: Fr. Edmund Vargas



587-349-9615



403-874-2015
efvargas@shaw.ca



We Believe in CATHOLIC EDUCATION

**Support Catholic Education Sunday
November 8, 2020**

The Calgary Catholic Education Foundation (CCEF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing educational experiences and opportunities for over 59,000 students in 117 schools in the Calgary Catholic School District: serving Calgary, Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere.

Our faith-based funding priorities are:

- Social Justice
- Leading-edge learning opportunities such as portable technology
- Playgrounds
- Stewardship and leadership development in students
- Safe and caring faith-based programs
- Campus Calgary/Open Minds®

Believe in Catholic Education by showing your support today

Online

Donate securely and with confidence online with your credit card or by e-transfer at: www.theccef.ca

By cheque

Mail your donation to:
Calgary Catholic Education Foundation
1000 - 5 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 4T9

At your local parish

If attending mass on November 8, 2020, place your donation **in the dedicated envelope** from your box.

All donations are 100% tax deductible.

To learn more about the CCEF, visit us at www.theccef.ca

#IBelieveinCatholicED



The **Catholic Bishops**
of **Alberta** and the
Northwest Territories

Les **évêques catholiques**
de **l'Alberta** et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 101 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6A 0L1 | T 780.469.1010 F 780.465.3003

November 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Catholic Education Sunday is an annual event that celebrates the important and critical role which our Catholic schools play in the province of Alberta. Publicly funded Catholic education is a gift, which provides faith-based education to more than 180,000 students in Alberta. The Alberta Bishops' commitment to Catholic education is steadfast and we continue actively to work with the Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA), the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta (CCSSA) and Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education (GrACE) to ensure the future of Catholic education in our province.

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Sunday is from the Book of Isaiah. In the context of our current pandemic, it offers us the prophet's words of solicitude, prophetic fulfillment, and hope in the face of challenge.

Those who hope in the LORD shall renew their strength.
(Isaiah 40:31, NRSV.)

The pandemic continues to have a deep impact on every facet of our society, including the Catholic Education of our young people. During the shut-down of schools in the spring, Catholic Education faced this challenge by providing virtual classrooms, which continued to engage students in their academic learning and religious faith instruction. When the schools reopened in the fall, many new practices were put in place to adhere to the health precautions and to ensure student safety. In the midst of these challenges, Catholic Education has been embracing the call for renewal and inviting students and their families to look to the future with hope.

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Alberta Bishops released the *Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal*. The Pastoral Statement

describes this as a “*time for bold creativity and life-giving transformation for all.*” Some significant societal issues, which were hidden by the distractions of pre-pandemic life, are now very evident. This calls people of Faith, and especially our Catholic educators, to chart a prophetic path in addressing these issues now and in the future.

“Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we invite the Catholic community to join us in looking afresh at certain aspects of our life together in society, to discern and decide a course for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal.” (*Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal*)

This call for renewal will be embraced by our young people through the role that Catholic education must play in strengthening authentic human development, which is essential for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal for the future of our society.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, proposes such a renewal by rediscovering the value of human fraternity and recognizing ourselves as sisters and brothers, who are responsible for one another and called to stand by those who suffer.

“Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, No. 167)

Another example of this spirit of renewal can be found in recently beatified Carlos Acutis, a young man of our era. He lived the faith by devoting himself to the Eucharist and responding to this Grace in his life by caring for the poor, advocating for those living with physical or mental challenges, and using technology to further evangelization. Blessed Carlos Acutis has been called “a millennial saint.” His example can guide young people in our Catholic schools to learn about him and to be inspired by his active witness to the Catholic Social Teachings of our faith!

Catholic Education fosters high academic achievement and provides students with personal and communal spiritual formation. Catholic Education invites students to see each other and, indeed, the peoples of the world as their sisters and brothers. This fraternity calls the students to respond to those in need locally and globally. These good works help young people to seek the common good and to bring Christ’s love and hope to others.

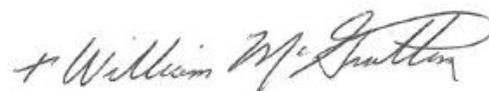
May the efforts of everyone bring hope and renewed strength to all those committed to Catholic Education. In this time of pandemic, we extend to our Catholic school communities our prayers and blessing for the celebration of Catholic Education Sunday.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



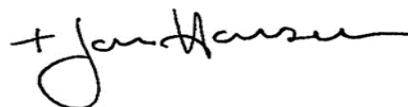
Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend Paul Terrio
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith



**Statement by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops to the re-tabling of Bill C-7:
“An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)”**

The Catholic Bishops of Canada remain steadfastly opposed to Bill C-7, which further expands euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada, which the government and courts have euphemistically called “medical assistance in dying” (“MAID”). We also remain deeply troubled that the Federal Government chose not to appeal the Quebec Superior Court “*Truchon v. Attorney General of Canada*” ruling which requires the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide to be expanded by removing the “reasonable foreseeability of natural death” criterion. This decision not to appeal prompted Bill C-7 and bypassed the “parliamentary review of ...provisions [for “MAID”] and of the state of palliative care in Canada to commence at the start of the fifth year following the day on which [the Act] receives Royal Assent,” as provided in the [original 2016 Act](#) to amend the Criminal Code. This review, which the government had agreed to before introducing new amendments, has yet to occur.

Bill C-7 goes far beyond the *Truchon* ruling by relinquishing and broadening some of the remaining “safeguards.” As [we have previously noted](#), one example of this involves allowing patients whose death is “reasonably foreseeable” to waive their final consent to receiving euthanasia by allowing such a decision to be made through an advance directive. This reckless expansion and that of other eligibility criteria has been justified by the Government on the basis of an online consultation which took place over a mere two weeks between 13 and 27 January 2020, [which the Bishops of Canada have denounced as questionable, biased and rushed](#). The Government, in its own “What We Heard Report”, mentions that it received “thousands” of “form responses” that “were opposed to MAID in general” as well as other responses “opposed to MAID”, even though the question of whether Canadians agreed with euthanasia and assisted suicide in the form of “MAID” was never explicitly asked.¹ It is hoped that in a democratic country, a much more wide-ranging, objective and fair consultation of Canadians would be enacted without further delay.

In 2019, the World Medical Association reaffirmed [its long-standing policy of opposition to euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide](#). Over 70 of Canada’s leading disability rights organizations and advocate stated they were “deeply troubled” with the expansion of “MAID”, and that the Quebec Superior Court’s decision would “[entrench stereotypes and exacerbate stigma for Canadians with disabilities](#)”. With even further disregard, the Government of Canada sidelined and ignored the stark apprehensions brought forward by the

¹ Department of Justice, “What We Heard Report: A Public Consultation on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)”, March 2020. “Summary of comments: Theme 5 - Opposition to MAID”.
<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/ad-am/wh-cqnae/p2.html#s2-6-5>

[United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) concerning the implementation of “Medical Assistance in Dying” in Canada from a disability perspective. And most recently here in Canada, [more than 50 religious leaders, including Jewish, Muslim and Christians, released an open letter to all Canadians in opposition to Bill C-7.](#)

[The pastoral experience of the Bishops has shown that patients are more likely](#) to request euthanasia/assisted suicide when their pain is not properly managed by good quality palliative care, when their dependence on others to provide assistance and support is not adequately met, or when they are socially marginalized. Palliative care, which has yet to become fully available and accessible in our own country, offers a compelling answer – the only respectful, comprehensive and ethical alternative to what the government is trying to address through the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Palliative care seeks to alleviate the pain, loneliness, fear, distress, and despair which can lead individuals, where no such emotional, psychological and spiritual support is available, to the tragic failure that the option or choice of euthanasia and assisted suicide represents. Palliative care supports and respects the dignity of the person and is anchored in the recognition that human life has an objective value independent of illness or life situation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has painfully revealed that fear, distress and despair are not uncommon realities among our fellow Canadians and family members in assisted living and senior residences. The Canadian Armed Forces reported “horrific conditions” in some of the long-term care facilities in which they were called to serve.² The Prime Minister himself referred to the situation as “deeply disturbing.”³ How can the Federal Government in good conscience expand the eligibility to euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada when our country and its citizens are still unable to offer basic human care to the elderly and dying?

The proposed legislation of Bill C-7 remains deeply flawed, unjust, and morally pernicious. The Bishops of Canada call on Catholics and all people of good will to make their voices heard in opposition to the Bill. Similarly, all Canadian legislators should recall that no law that permits the taking of innocent human life can ever be morally justified. Such a law would always violate the intrinsic dignity of the human person. The recent letter *Samaritanus bonus* by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith clearly summarizes the position of the Catholic Church on this matter:

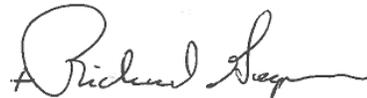
It is gravely unjust to enact laws that legalize euthanasia or justify and support suicide, invoking the false right to choose a death improperly characterized as respectable only because it is chosen. Such laws strike at the foundation of the legal order: the right to life sustains all other rights, including the exercise of freedom. The existence of such laws deeply wound human relations and justice, and threaten the mutual trust among

² “Infestations, sedation and neglect: Military report details ‘horrific’ living conditions” by [Karen Howlett](#), [Jill Mahoney](#) and [Laura Stone](#), *Globe and Mail*, 26 May 2020 (updated 27 May 2020). <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-infestations-sedation-and-neglect-military-report-details-horrific/>

³ Ibid.

human beings. The legitimation of assisted suicide and euthanasia is a sign of the degradation of legal systems.⁴

We firmly support and uphold most categorically the inherent dignity of each and every human person as well as their inalienable right to life which the Government must respect and protect as in any democracy. Elected public officials should not avoid, shy away from or delay sincere dialogue and constructive consultations with faith and community leaders, and others, who could bring to the common reflection and societal discernment a valid perspective worthy of respect and consideration for the good of all Canadians.



+ Richard Gagnon
Archbishop of Winnipeg and
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops

20 October 2020

⁴ Letter *Samaritanus bonus* on the care of persons in the critical and terminal phases of life. Section V.
<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/09/22/200922a.html>



Reflection

Week 5

[READ HERE](#)

Responsibility for the **Common** **Good**

The pandemic requires all of us to be especially mindful of our physical presence in the world and of our right conduct in relation to others.



The **Catholic Bishops**
of **Alberta** and the
Northwest Territories

Les évêques catholiques
de l'**Alberta** et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (2020): [Statement on Racism](#).
- Pope Francis, Encyclical *Laudato Si'* (2015): [On Care for Our Common Home](#).
- Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (2006): [Ch. 4, Section II. The Principle of the Common Good](#).

Throughout the pandemic, we have been advised to stay in our homes or immediate family circles, to restrict our close interactions to small cohorts or “bubbles” of people, and to maintain appropriate physical or social distance, all for the sake of everyone’s well-being. Out of concern for ourselves, our neighbours and even strangers, we have voluntarily limited our interactions with others in order to keep from spreading or contracting a harmful and potentially deadly virus. In these ways, we have experienced how the good of the individual is dependent upon and reached in relation to the good of the whole, the common good.

Responsibility for serving and fostering the common good has application beyond the pandemic, of course. Generally speaking, we promote authentic human development and flourishing in the way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Sometimes, too, for the sake of the common good, we are required to address and amend sinful behaviours and attitudes that “distance” people socially from one another or that threaten to erode the well-being of persons. This includes such evils as prejudice, racism and bigotry, violations against human dignity and the right to life, promoting economic profit over people, and environmental degradation of our common home.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1 What has been your experience of physical or social distancing during the pandemic? How might you describe this experience in terms of promoting or serving the common good?
- 2 What questions or lessons has the pandemic surfaced for you about personal and social sin in our Church? in society?
- 3 In moving forward, what activities should our Church undertake to encourage healthy social interactions and human relationships free of prejudice and malice?

Mindful that social sins often are rooted in habits of personal sinfulness, that they oppose the will of God and erode human relationships, we desire a society where people enjoy healthy social interactions and learn to serve one another free of all prejudice and malice.



PANEL DISCUSSION



Week 5

Responsibility for the Common Good



Moderator



Dr. Shawn Flynn
President (interim) –
St. Joseph’s College, Edmonton, AB

Panelists



Dr. Peter Baltutis
Associate Professor/CWL
Chair for Catholic Studies,
St. Mary’s University,
Calgary, AB



Ms. Martina Norwegian
Sacred Heart Parish,
Fort Simpson, NT



Rev. Kris Schmidt
Pastor/Vlogger/”Flying
Father”, Our Lady of the
Angels Parish, Fort
Saskatchewan, AB



Mr. Gerald Sseguya
Coordinator, Faith and
Community Liaison,
Catholic Social Services,
Edmonton, AB





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of **Alberta** and the
Northwest Territories

Les **évêques catholiques**
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A Pastoral Statement on the Impact of COVID-19 and the Call to Christian Renewal

“Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance”

Dear faithful in Christ,

For the past several months, our Catholic community, together with all Canadians and indeed the whole world, has been seriously impacted by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). All of us – whether individuals, families, parishes, institutions or dioceses – have been required to make sacrifices, including many difficult but necessary decisions about matters at the very heart of our Catholic faith and way of life. As bishops, we acknowledge and are grateful for the way in which our Catholic faithful – clergy and laity alike – have lived the unprecedented circumstances of these months. We know, too, that the Lord allows all occasions – positive and negative – to teach and re-teach us lessons for right living in light of the Gospel. It is in this spirit that we address this letter to you as an invitation to consider along with us what the Lord may be saying to his people and his Church through this time of trial.

While the situation of COVID-19 continues to develop in our lives and communities, it is increasingly evident that the pandemic has had, and will continue to have for some time to come, a far reaching impact on all people throughout the world. In Canada, including here in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, many human and social values have surfaced that, as Catholics among others, we will need to reflect upon as we consider the future of our life together in society, especially in the light of Christian revelation and our faith in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

In particular, the pandemic has alerted us to a number of important social issues that touch us all including:

- the care of vulnerable persons in our society and supports offered to medical personnel in hospitals, nursing homes and other care facilities;
- the education of our young people and supports offered to families and to educators;
- isolation and depression in our homes and communities, and the prevalence and stigma of mental illness, substance abuse, suicide and other social ills;
- increased rates of domestic violence, elder abuse and other forms of interpersonal violence;
- societal discord over different responses to COVID-19 that have fractured human relationships and challenged our call to love one another;
- incidents of racism, bigotry and religious intolerance, including in our towns and cities;
- anxieties caused by massive losses of employment and the general situation of economic instability;
- the fragility of our human condition and the basic needs we all have for safety, solidarity, and love within authentic human community.

At the same time, we have witnessed on a daily basis many heroic and selfless examples of individuals who exemplify true human goodness and charity. These are the so-called “saints who live next door” identified by Pope Francis as medical professionals, educators, parents and grandparents, shop workers, cleaners, communications and information technology specialists, law and order personnel, delivery drivers and so many volunteers in all sectors of our society. Whether motivated by faith or otherwise, young or old, these individuals are role models for all of us, demonstrating dedicated care and compassion that goes beyond duty to a level of human solidarity that is inspiring to others. We give thanks to God for raising up such generous human individuals who embrace this collective challenge as a way to witness to the enduring human and social values by which we need to live.

All of these situations described above – the good examples and the social challenges we face – give us insights into certain behaviours, actions and structures that we value as a society and as a Christian people. Some of these we will rightly want to hold on to going forward, while others may be in need of remedy or renewal.

On this feast day when we contemplate Christ's victory over death through the life-giving wood of the Cross, we, the Catholic Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, invite you to reflect and discern with us the kind of response that will be needed to address some of the human and social values that have surfaced during this pandemic. Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize society and interact with one another. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we invite the Catholic community to join us in looking afresh at certain aspects of our life together in society, to discern and decide a course for true social, cultural and spiritual renewal.

In the coming weeks, *Grandin Media* will be hosting a series of recorded panel discussions on various themes related to the pandemic and its challenging effects on our society. These sessions, featuring Catholic voices from around the province and territories, are meant to encourage our Catholic faithful to engage new questions and to take up new actions that reflect a “new normal” consistent with our life in Christ. Together with written texts, prepared by our bishops and released weekly, we shall present a series of reflections on the following topics:

- Reflection Topic #1: Inherent dignity of every human life
- Reflection Topic #2: Importance of the family
- Reflection Topic #3: Individual rights and social responsibilities
- Reflection Topic #4: Vulnerability and solidarity
- Reflection Topic #5: Responsibility for the common good
- Reflection Topic #6: Healthy use of information technologies
- Reflection Topic #7: Value and dignity of human work

We encourage all of our faithful to “tune in” to these sessions and take an active part in offering their own experience and wisdom on the topics presented. [An online mechanism will be available to receive your comments and feedback.] In this way, we hope to receive your insights into living our Christian faith in new ways in Catholic homes and in our communities, through our parishes, lay movements, schools and institutions, marked by hope, compassion and charity.

Our Catholic faith has much to contribute with respect to promoting human, social and spiritual values for the common good of society. We trust that you, like us, see the urgency to discern wisely the *signs of the times* and to “reset” our lives so that our collective experience in moving forward accords with the Gospel. Guided by the Holy Spirit, and

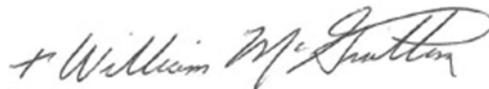
through the intercession of the most holy Mother of God, we are confident that this can be a time for bold creativity and life-giving transformation for all. We ask for God's blessing on this endeavour and upon all who join with us in this journey of discernment and path of renewal.

Yours in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



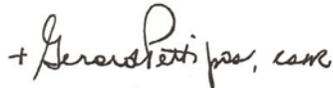
Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



Most Reverend Paul Terrio
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of
Edmonton



Most Reverend Jon Hansen, CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith

September 14, 2020 – Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.*