

**ONTARIO CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ISSUE STATEMENT ON
EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE**

For immediate release April 2, 2007

Toronto, Ontario – On the second anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II, and in the face of growing pressure to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide, the Ontario Catholic bishops will be calling on all Catholics to support laws that continue to recognize the right to life of every human being.

On Sunday, April 15th, 2007, the Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops will issue a statement on the dignity and destiny of human life entitled “Going to the House of the Father”.

Key messages in this statement are:

- **We are not the judges of when a human life should begin or end. Life in all stages is sacred, even in suffering and dying.**
- **The right to life is a human right. Our criminal laws recognize this and should continue to do so.**
- **As citizens, Catholics have the right to participate in the democratic political process. We have a responsibility to support life and to advocate for those who are disabled, frail, and suffering.**

“Jesus assures us that He has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father’s house.”

An advance copy of the statement is available on-line at www.occb.on.ca . The Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops is the association of 34 bishops from 17 dioceses which are home to more than 3,978,500 Catholics

-30-

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