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### **Sample Pulpit Presentation for priest or volunteer regarding Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide (November 2016)**

Good morning/afternoon. I would like to thank Fr. (name of pastor) and Bishop (name of local bishop) for supporting the presentation I am sharing today.

I want to share with you a few brief points about a difficult topic: dying. As you likely are aware, the Government of Canada legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide on June 17, 2016. This year, more than 374 Canadians have died by lethal injection.

We know that this is a very personal and at times divisive issue to raise among family and friends. Many people are also unaware of the facts. Today I would like to share two key points with you and ask for one concrete action step. The first key point:

Doctors in Ontario are being forced to help someone who wants to kill themselves to do so. Federal legislation states that “nothing compels an individual to provide or assist in providing medical assistance in dying.” The legislation is clear yet in Ontario, the college that regulates physicians insists that doctors must provide what is called an “effective referral”, in essence, arranging for a doctor who will end the life of a patient. The thousands of physicians who object to this feel that providing an effective referral forces them to serve as an accomplice in killing a patient. If they don’t comply they face discipline which could include losing their licence to practice medicine. No other country in the world forces health care professionals to do this and most other Canadian provinces have found morally acceptable ways forward.

Surely, no doctor should be forced to go against their conscience or moral convictions? This issue impacts thousands of physicians from many different faith backgrounds. It may force your doctor or my doctor to retire, move or even quit medicine all together.

The second point: There is public pressure mounting which could force faith based health care facilities like hospitals, retirement homes or hospices to allow patients to be euthanized on the premises. This goes against the ethics, mission and values of the religious women who founded health care in our country as well as groups like the Salvation Army and others who operate facilities across Canada. This could force these facilities, some who have served for centuries, to leave health care entirely.

Now the action step. I invite you to contact your member of provincial parliament to let them know how you feel about this. It takes just a few minutes and your letter, phone call or email message can make a real difference. Thousands of others have already responded and today we need your help.

At the back of the church you will find a simple one page handout that provides more information and even provides a sample letter that you can use. There's also a website with additional information, allowing you to email your MPP directly.

Our faith teaches us that life is a precious gift, to be cherished from the moment of conception to natural death. I hope you will join me in sharing your concerns with our elected officials, to help protect health care workers and facilities so that they can continue their healing mission for years to come.

As I said previously, this isn't an easy discussion. But it truly is a matter of life and death. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

### **Euthanasia/Assisted – Did You Know?**

Now that Canada has legalized assisted suicide/euthanasia, did you know that doctors in Ontario are forced to provide direct referrals for patients seeking to end their lives? Doctors who object to helping to kill their patients see a direct referral as being an accomplice to assisted suicide. No foreign jurisdiction in the world that has legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide has forced health care workers or facilities to act against their conscience. 8 other provinces in Canada have adopted protocols to protect doctors and institutions. Visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to learn more and to write directly to the Ontario government.

### **Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide – Did You Know?**

Since Canada legalized euthanasia/assisted suicide in June 2016, 374 people across the country have already died by lethal injection. Meanwhile, only 30% of Canadians have access to quality palliative (end of life) care. Please visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to learn more and write directly to the Ontario government.

### **Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide – Did You Know?**

The Government of Canada passed legislation in June 2016, legalizing euthanasia/assisted suicide. Despite wording intended to protect doctors and facilities, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is forcing health care workers to arrange for the killing of their patients. No other country does this. Provinces across Canada do not do this. Yet, Ontario refuses to protect doctors who object to ending the life of their patients. Please visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to learn more and write directly to your elected Member of Provincial Parliament.

### **Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide – Did You Know?**

Now that euthanasia/assisted suicide is legal in Canada, doctors in Ontario are being forced to help arrange for the killing of their patients. If your family doctor or surgeon objects to providing a referral for assisted suicide/euthanasia, they could be fined, disciplined or even removed from their practice. Many may be forced to retire or move outside of the province if the provincial government does not recognize their freedom of conscience. Please visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to learn more and write directly to your Member of Provincial Parliament.

