



# The Ontario Provincial Election *and* the Catholic Church

***Election Date: Thursday, June 2, 2022***

## **HUMAN DIGNITY RESPECTING LIFE IN ALL STAGES**

### ***The Issue from a Catholic Perspective***

As Catholics, we believe in the sanctity of human life, from conception until natural death.

With the next provincial election on June 2, 2022, we are called to discern which candidate, which party, do we believe will represent our values in government and enact policies that enhance the dignity and sacredness of each person.

By voting with an informed conscience, we have the power to elect governments that actively work to shape a world where human life receives full respect at all its stages.

The provincial government has the jurisdiction to care for Ontario's sick and dying. Too few Ontarians have access to comprehensive, compassionate palliative care at the end stages of their natural lives. Palliative medicine manages a person's pain and surrounds them with care as they die. As more and more people opt for euthanasia, we must ask if the dying are seeking to end their lives early due to a lack of options.

### **FACTS**

- There were 21,428 abortions performed in Ontario in 2020 (CIHI)
- 7,595 Canadians chose to end their life in 2020 through euthanasia, also known as "Medical Assistance in Dying" (Govt. of Canada)
- Only 30% of Canadians have access to specialized palliative care (Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians)



### **SOMETHING TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU VOTE JUNE 2, 2022**

Ask your candidates if they would expand access to full palliative care for people at the end stages of their natural life.

## **ELECTING GOVERNMENTS THAT RESPECT AND SAFEGUARD HUMAN DIGNITY**

Catholic social teaching is not a political platform, but it can be used as a prism through which to analyze and evaluate government policies, laws and programs. The principles of respect for life from conception to natural death and of the dignity of the human person should inform each of us as we assess a party's position on key issues.

Respect for human dignity and life is wide ranging. It encompasses critical life issues, such as abortion and assisted suicide, but it also includes a genuine commitment to quality of life issues such as: adequate health care; reducing poverty; providing quality education; creating accessible, affordable housing; and offering other social supports.

As citizens, we are called to discern how each party stands on these issues.

## **WHAT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING TELLS US**

“Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God.”

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2319)*

“It is essential that we show the mercy of the Good Samaritan not only to the homeless, to the sick, to those suffering or in prison, to any victims of violence, and to refugees, but especially to those who are dying. We do that through true palliative care, by using the best medical expertise available to control pain, and by surrounding the one who is dying with the love that we all hope to sustain us as we come to that crucial moment which we Catholics constantly mention in our most frequent prayer: ‘the hour of our death.’”

*(Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto)*

“A just society can become a reality only when it is based on the respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person. The person represents the ultimate end of society, by which it is ordered to the person ... It is necessary to consider every neighbour without exception as another self, taking into account first of all [their] life and the means necessary for living it with dignity.”

*(Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, #132)*

We have a duty to be well-informed and to vote.

Learn more about the major political parties' positions on issues of importance to Catholics.

For more details, visit:  
[www.archtoronto.org/election](http://www.archtoronto.org/election)



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