



ARCHEVÊCHÉ  
ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE  
ARCHIDIOCÈSE DE SAINT-BONIFACE ARCHDIOCESE

BUREAU DE L'ARCHEVÊQUE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 14, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**I would like to encourage you to support the “Call for Conscience” Campaign, which supports Bill 34 - *the Medical Assistance in Dying (Protection for Health Professionals & Others) Act*, currently being considered by the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.** This campaign is organized by the Coalition for Health Care and Conscience, a Canadian, Christian-based organization. As you may know, with the passing of euthanasia / assisted suicide legislation in Parliament in 2016, provinces are now implementing what is called “Medical Assistance in Dying” (MAID). The government of Manitoba has introduced Bill 34 to protect doctors, nurses and other health care professionals from having to provide, refer, or assist in this provision against their conscience.

This Bill is likely to be debated in the fall, and therefore the opportunity for action is time sensitive. **I am inviting you, the faithful of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, to take part in the efforts of contacting our MLAs to let them know that you support Bill 34, and that you would like them to do the same.** This is an important issue for the future of health care in Manitoba. Ontario has passed regulations that require doctors to refer patients for assisted suicide against their conscience. Because of this, doctors in Ontario have been forced into early retirement or have had to give up providing palliative care. Manitoba's regulators have not taken this step. But there is pressure on them to do so. Bill 34 would protect the conscience rights of doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals from being forced to choose between their conscience and their career.

**I invite you to sign the template letter for your MLA, and send it to his/her office by October 15th. Please also send a signed copy of the letter to Nadine Fetherston at the Archdiocese of St. Boniface (151 Cathédrale Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2H 0H6).**

**You may also choose to support the campaign by:**

- Visiting [www.canadiansforconscience.ca/manitoba](http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/manitoba), and **emailing the template letter to your MLA, which can be personalized.** (Please do so by October 15.)
- **Viewing and sharing an excellent 3 minute video called “Call for Conscience”** (available at: [bit.ly/ConscienceMB](http://bit.ly/ConscienceMB)). In this video, several Canadian physicians share their concerns regarding conscience rights and their hope for Bill 34 to be passed.

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- **Phoning your MLA to speak with them or to arrange an appointment to meet them face-to-face to express your views.**

Lastly, and most importantly, **I ask for your prayers for the success of this campaign**, that our Lord Jesus Christ may aid our province of Manitoba to continue to be a place where the diversity we celebrate as a society makes room for people of conscience and of faith.

It is my hope that many you will participate in this collective effort, in communion with many of our Catholic and Christian brothers and sisters in Manitoba, as well as those from various faith backgrounds, who share our values of respect for life. **For any questions, please contact Nadine Fetherston, with the Marriage, Family and Life Service of the Archdiocese of St. Boniface: [mfl2@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:mfl2@archsaintboniface.ca). You will also find more information about the campaign on our Archdiocesan website: [www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca).**

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Albert LeGatt*

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Archbishop of Saint Boniface