

Communications & Environment Midwinter Report 2017

Madame President, my sisters in the League,

I am again inviting all councils to submit their photos of activities that have taken place since Convention 2016. Make sure you include the name of your council, the zone to which you belong, the title of the activity and any names you would like associated with the photos. Deadline for submission is April 8th to give me time to complete the creation of the PowerPoint presentation which will again be shown at this year’s convention banquet.

Some key sites to visit related to educating our youth and ourselves on social media and which are on the “Communications” tab on our diocesan web site include: Kids in Mind, a resource for viewing information re. movies and their appropriateness for different audiences, and The Parent Network: Social Media and Your Kids. This site includes workshops and outstanding resources for developing healthy & respectful ways of communicating – good for us to learn about some of these issues for conversing with grandchildren!

The theme for the 2017 World Communications Day, Sunday, June 4th, is taken from the book of Isaiah: *"Fear not, for I am with you: communicating hope and trust in our time.”* This theme is "an invitation to tell the history of the world and the stories of men and women. Numbness of conscience or letting desperation get the better of us are two possible “diseases” that our current communication system can cause. It is possible that our conscience is cauterised, as Pope Francis comments in Laudato Si’, as a result of the fact that often professionals, opinion leaders and means of communication work in urban areas distant from places of poverty and need, and their physical distance often leads them to ignore the complexity of the dramas faced by men and women. Those who live united with Christ discover that even darkness and death become, for those who so wish, a place for communion with Light and Life. Let us learn to communicate trust and hope for history.

 It’s not often that we get the chance to personally voice our position as Catholics and I am about to present you with such an opportunity. A private members bill has been tabled in parliament. The bill is called “e-673 (Health care services) and was initiated by Nancy Simms from Kamloops. The Petition is open for signature until March 28, 2017, at 3:18 p.m. (EDT). It reads: Whereas:

* The Canada Health Act recognizes home care as an “extended health service” not an “insured health service” to which the principles of the Act apply;
* Insured health services are fully funded by government and delivered based on the patient’s need, not their ability to pay;
* Through its legislative role, the federal government can facilitate national approaches and standards that must be satisfied by provincial and territorial health care insurance plans.

We, the undersigned, Canadian citizens, call upon the Government of Canada to amend the Canada Health Act to include home care as an insured health service.

This private member’s bill clearly supports National Resolution 2016.05 and the Catholic Church in Canada to ensure health care that deters Canadians from requesting “Physician Assisted Killing”. My vision, is that EVERY member of the CWL visit the site and add their name to this petition. As I write this report, Alberta has 179 signatures, the province with the highest number of signatures is Ontario with 275. Clearly Catholics across the country are unaware of this important opportunity! Let your voice be heard! The link to the petition is on the “Home” tab of our web site.

At my display table, is a handout of Anti-euthanasia resources, the e-petition link, and of course, a handout on Laudato Si!

This concludes my report, are there any questions?

Sr. Susan Scott