

# **CALL FOR CONSCIENCE CAMPAIGN PARISH COMMUNICATION RESOURCES**

## **Sign-Up Sundays! We Need Your Help!**

The Call for Conscience 2018 Campaign is underway. Archbishop Terrence Prendergast and bishops across Ontario are asking for an email address from every Catholic family in their community, with a goal of 100,000 email addresses collected by the end of February 2018. This information will be used to communicate periodically on issues of particular importance for the Catholic community.

The first campaign of 2018 is the Call for Conscience, inviting our elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and those seeking office this June to increase funding/access to palliative care, to protect health care workers wishing to abstain from any involvement in euthanasia/assisted suicide and to protect faith based facilities from participation in euthanasia/assisted suicide. The work builds on a similar campaign in 2017.

Please take a moment to provide your contact information at the back of the church on the weekends of Feb. 4 and Feb. 11, 2018 or email the office with your name, email address and postal code. Thank you for living a faith that acts!

## ***FAQ for Sign-Up Table***

### **Frequently Asked Questions – Sign Up Sunday, Call for Conscience 2018**

#### **Q. What is Sign-Up Sunday?**

**A.** Sign-Up Sundays are a series of weekends being held in churches across Ontario with a desire to gather at least one email address from every family. This information will be used at the discretion of our bishop to communicate periodically on issues of significant importance to the Catholic community. The first campaign of 2018 is the Call for Conscience campaign.

#### **Q. What is the Call for Conscience campaign?**

**A.** The Call for Conscience campaign (spearheaded by the Coalition for HealthCARE & Conscience) will ask our elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and those seeking office this June to increase funding/access to palliative care, to protect health care workers wishing to abstain from any involvement in euthanasia/assisted suicide and to protect faith based facilities from participation in euthanasia/assisted suicide. The work builds on a similar campaign in 2017.

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**Q. Once I provide my email address, what happens?**

**A.** Your email address will be entered into a centralized database so that we can seamlessly share information regarding the Call for Conscience campaign and other relevant initiatives to tens of thousands of Catholics at the touch of a button. For the Call for Conscience campaign, you will receive an email message outlining the issue and encouraging you to send a letter to your Member of Provincial Parliament concerning conscience rights in Ontario in April 2018. This can be done simply, with a few online clicks.

**Q. Why is this being done?**

**A.** Many Catholics are unaware of the involvement of the church in an ongoing dialogue with elected representatives at all levels of government. It is our hope that by communicating with parishioners on a more regular basis, we can educate and motivate our faith community to be more engaged in allowing our voice to be heard in the public square. With an election scheduled in the Province of Ontario for June 7, 2018, it is an appropriate time to learn, using a non-partisan approach, where candidates of all major parties on issues of importance.

**Q. Will my contact information be sold to groups outside of the church?**

**A.** No. Communication will only be permitted with the endorsement of your local bishop.

**Q. Many people do not have an email address. How can they still participate?**

**A.** We recognize not everyone uses an email address. Parishioners are also welcome to provide a cell phone number as another point of contact. We will also continue to distribute information to churches allowing people to write their own hand-written letters or to personally contact their elected member of parliament as appropriate.

**Q. How else might the list be used?**

**A.** Your local bishop may decide to reach out with an Easter or Christmas message, to encourage involvement in a particular initiative or he may ask a group like the Coalition for HealthCare and Conscience to connect with you regarding an advocacy campaign. We want to use modern technology to communicate effectively with the Catholic community. Effective communications helps promote increased evangelization, our ultimate goal as a community of believers.