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Quid Novum



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

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Hello Friend in Christ ,

I'm pleased to bring you more news from the Archdiocese, and assure you of my prayers for all our faithful readers!

God bless,

Lorraine

Collection for Syrian Refugees



Photo courtesy of Development & Peace

In response to the escalating crisis of Syrian refugees, Archbishop Smith is asking parishes to take up a second collection during all masses on the weekend of **October 18**. This collection is part of an unprecedented joint appeal to Catholics across the country, involving the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Organization for Development and Peace, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Our Syrian brothers and sisters are suffering unimaginable misery; please do what you can to reach out to help.

[Read the letter from Auxiliary Bishop Bittman »](#)

Office of the Archbishop

Call to Action on Assisted Suicide



The Catholic Bishops of Canada are calling on all Canadians to raise the issue of assisted suicide with candidates during the current federal election campaign.

In a statement issued after their annual plenary meeting in Cornwall, the Bishops pointed to Canada's long tradition of caring for the sick and the vulnerable, which has been jeopardized by the Supreme Court ruling that struck down the law that prohibited doctors from assisting in the suicides of their patients.

"We cannot but express our outrage at the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada to create a new "constitutional right" in Canada, the so-called "right" to suicide," the bishops wrote. "Nor can we suppress our profound dismay, disappointment and disagreement with the Court's decision. The ruling would legalize an action that, from time immemorial, has been judged immoral: the taking of innocent life. Moreover, it puts at risk the lives of the vulnerable, the depressed, those with physical or mental illness, and those with disabilities."

"....We are in the midst of a federal election campaign. The candidates' silence on the question of assisted suicide astonishes us. This question is fundamental for our society and its future. Have we relinquished the ability to debate the profound questions of life that touch us all? Are our politicians that terrified by the risk of awkwardly phrased responses, getting "off message", or the ups and downs of public opinion polls? We urge all the citizens of our country to raise this question of life and death at meetings with candidates, to stimulate a true debate worthy of our great country."

[Read more »](#)

Let Government know that Life Matters

An External Panel has been appointed to advise the next government on legislative options for physician-assisted suicide following the Supreme Court decision. Now is the time to make your thoughts known. The panel is inviting input from all Canadians in two ways:

1. [Complete the Online Issue Book](#)

(deadline October 11)

We encourage you to take time (25-30 minutes) to express your opinion on this decisive issue by completing their multiple-choice question consultation. You will note that in many cases, the questions are difficult to answer since they assume enabling legislation is inevitable. As for the few essay questions, you may want to use some of these suggestions below, rephrasing them *in your own words*:

- It is essential to respect life. We need to give people options for life rather than the choice of death.
- It is urgent to improve suicide prevention programmes for everyone and at all times.
- We must ensure the wording is clear. For example, do not use euphemisms such as "medical aid in dying" instead of the word "euthanasia."
- Vulnerable individuals must be protected (and we can all become vulnerable).
- Assisted suicide and euthanasia are not medical acts and should never be seen as such.
- Assisted suicide and euthanasia are incompatible with palliative care.
- It is essential to protect freedom of conscience for all medical and health workers.
- No law allowing assisted suicide or euthanasia can protect everyone in all situations, even if strong safeguards are established.

2. [Send a Formal Submission](#)

(deadline October 11)

Prepare and send a submission document for the panel to review. This can be your personal views, or a position paper on behalf of a stakeholder organization.

Feel free to share the online consultation link (<http://www.ep-ce.ca/consultation>) with anyone who might be interested in participating in this crucial national discussion.

Learn more about the Issues

Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide: Questions of Life and Death Wednesday, November 4



Are you caring for an aging parent or a disabled person? Or do you suffer from a chronic illness or disability and worry about your own care as you age? Are you a health professional concerned about efforts to legalize assisted suicide or euthanasia? What is the Catholic understanding of life and death? Sooner or later, we all confront some of these issues. You are invited to join Archbishop Smith for a special seminar on Questions of Life and Death, on **Wednesday, November 4**, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 - 119 Street, Edmonton. Guest speakers are Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. The session is free, and all are welcome. Please register online at <http://caedm.ca/life> or by phone to Suzanne Brohier at 780-

469-1010.

We encourage all parishes to publish this notice in the bulletin and share the poster. Thank you.

[Download the poster](#)

[Click here to register »](#)

Catechesis

Weekly Discipleship Reflections



September 27 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Road to Discipleship: The Company We Keep

Self-mutilation is forbidden in Judaism, so why does Jesus talk about cutting off body parts? St. John Chrysostom tells us that this is a moral reference. Jesus' life modelled how worldly power **must** never be his disciples' aim. Cliquishness ("he is not one of us"), and competing with others who cast out demons in Jesus' name, is not a disciple's outlook. Jesus wants his disciples to serve others, especially those most powerless. Sometimes our close companions lead us away from service, sacrifice, and holiness, not towards it. Those companions are to be cut away. Christ is our centre, our model, our saviour. Eternal life in communion with our Triune God is far, far better than hell with our pals.

[More Discipleship Reflections »](#)

Breaking open the Encyclical

Laudato Si' On Care for our Common Home



Pope Francis' recent encyclical has spawned a lot of discussion. He presented Fidel Castro with a copy of the encyclical while in Cuba, and he will no doubt do similarly at the UN and the US Congress this week.

So what is the encyclical all about?

Here are some of the study guides and resources you might choose to use—on your own or in your parish—to delve into the encyclical.

The Vatican Press Office provided 'a map' for reading the encyclical. It is a guide to the development and major themes of the document. You can find it

here: http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/06/18/laudato_si%E2%80%99_a_press_guide_to_the_new_encyclical/1152352

What are the main messages, or "takeaways" of this encyclical? Fr. James Martin, SJ, has provided a top 10 list for you here: <http://americamagazine.org/top-ten-takeaways-laudato-si>

[Click here for more resources »](#)

Learn to pass on our faith to others

Are you involved in sacramental preparation, RCIA, or adult faith formation in the parish? Are you a parent or grandparent who wants to talk about your faith more easily with your children or grandchildren? Or would you just like to learn more about the faith? The Office of Catechesis is pleased to offer fall workshops in the art of passing on our faith to others. These sessions will enrich your own faith and equip you to share it more effectively.

Edmonton East Deanery

Saturday, October 17, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. Clare Parish

[Download the poster](#)

[Read More Details »](#)

Divine Worship - RCIA Study Day

RCIA: Forming Authentic Missionary Disciples A Study Day for Clergy and Parish RCIA teams

Thursday, October 15, 2015
Providence Renewal Centre
3005 - 119 Street, Edmonton

The Second Vatican Council envisioned the RCIA as a dynamic process of conversion, formation, and apprenticeship. The Council Fathers intended the RCIA process—in each parish—to make disciples committed to a life of service in Christ.

This study day is designed for all those who help make it happen in the parish: clergy, RCIA coordinators, and RCIA catechists. The day will focus on that original vision for the RCIA, will offer practical suggestions for weaving this apprenticeship model more fully into present RCIA practice, and will explore the implications of apprenticeship for all Catholic formation and catechesis. Our facilitator is Jerry Galipeau, D.Min., a popular presenter who has extensive experience with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We have a morning session for clergy and an afternoon session for team members, with one overlapping session for both. Cost: \$40 per person (includes light meal). For more information, contact Mona Dolan in the Office of Divine Worship at 780-469-1010 or mdolan@caedm.ca.

Register online at <http://caedm.ca/divineworship>.

[Download poster & details »](#)

Lay Apostolate

Becoming an Oasis of Mercy: A Workshop on Parish Hospitality

How well do we welcome the stranger? Nurturing and developing a culture of hospitality is important in any parish. We invite you to learn more about being a welcoming parish at a day-long workshop on **Friday, October 16**, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park. Our facilitator is Jerry Galipeau, a well-known presenter on RCIA, evangelization, liturgy, and liturgical music. Jerry has also blogged about his own experiences seeking a parish in which he could feel truly welcome. This workshop is designed for parish leaders, including members of the Parish Pastoral Council, staff, volunteer coordinators, and ministry leaders.

At the end of the workshop, leaders will have learned techniques that they can share with others to improve the hospitality ministry in the parish.

As space may be limited, we ask that you register up to three attendees from the parish. There is no charge for this session, and lunch will be included. Please register by **Wednesday, October 7**, using the online registration link at www.caedm.ca/hospitality.

If you have any questions, you may contact Lucy Kaakyo at 780-469-1010 ext.2134 or LKaakyo@caedm.ca, or Natalie Rose at NRose@caedm.ca or ext.2130.

[Click here to register online »](#)

Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries

Fall Memorial Mass

Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries invites you to join Father Jim Corrigan to worship and receive God's grace at our Fall Memorial Mass on **Saturday, November 7**, at 9:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery. We are located at 4814 Meridian

Street, Edmonton. All are welcome.

ECC Monthly Mass

Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries invites all parishioners, particularly those who have lost a loved one in the last month, to join us for Mass on the **third Saturday of the month**, at 9:30 a.m. in St. Joseph's Chapel at the Holy Cross Mausoleum. Holy Cross Cemetery is located at 14611 Mark Messier Trail, Edmonton.

Planning Ahead Seminars

A Catholic Perspective on Funerals, Burials, and Estate Planning

Gain peace of mind for yourself and your loved ones. Join your pastor along with Deacon Paul Croteau, Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries Director, and Carla Smiley, archdiocesan Planned Giving Coordinator, for an evening that will engage and inform you on these important topics. Also in attendance will be a Catholic funeral director to answer questions about funeral planning. Planning Ahead seminars are a joint ministry of the Development Office & Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries.

[Click here for upcoming seminar dates »](#)

Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations

Interfaith Service

The St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild and the Phoenix Multifaith Society for Harmony are hosting an interfaith vigil, lecture and reception **Thursday, September 24**, featuring internationally renowned legal expert: Dr. Karima Bennouna. Seating at 4:45 p.m. and formal program 5 – 6 p.m. at Edmonton City Hall, 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square.

[\(Download the Invitation\)](#)

Taizé Pilgrimage Survey

The Archdiocese, along with its ecumenical partners, is exploring the possibility of organizing a pilgrimage for young adults to the monastic community of Taizé in France. We want to hear from interested young adults! If you are between 18 and 29 years old, please fill out this brief survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9266TVL> Thank you in advance for your participation.

[More Ecumenical & Interreligious News »](#)

Vocations

Pray for our Seminarians

The 2015-16 Seminarian Prayer Calendar is here! Your prayers are so important to each and every one of the 49 men who are currently discerning their calling at St. Joseph Seminary. We also have individual prayer cards for each of the eight men who are studying for the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Download your copies at www.caedm.ca/vocations/pray. Printed copies are also available at St. Joseph Seminary or the Pastoral & Administration Offices.

St. Joseph Seminary

Jazz Night at SJS



The Ad Gentes Committee at St Joseph Seminary requests your support! Join us for Jazz Night on **Friday, October 16**, at Newman Theological College. doors open at 6:30 p.m. Come meet the seminarians, enjoy a live band, silent auction, and great company while supporting our missionary activities. Tickets are \$15, available at reception areas of the Seminary, College, or Pastoral & Administration Offices, and also from any seminarian. Proceeds will help our continued sponsorship of four people from developing nations through Chalice, a Catholic charity: Mykola from the Ukraine, Belen and Helena from Chile, and Joel from the Philippines. For more information, contact Jessie at sjsadgentes@gmail.com or Yvonne at 780-392-2445.

Silent auction items are gratefully accepted & appreciated! They can be dropped off at any of the reception areas or given to a seminarian.

[Please share the poster »](#)

Parish & Community News

Life and the Spirit Retreat

Quiet yourself and discover God's gifts once again! Register for the 17th Life and the Spirit Retreat hosted at Sacred Heart Church on the weekend of **October 16-18**. This retreat is designed for those who, with the aid of the Catholic community, wish to humbly invoke the Holy Spirit to revive your faith! Experience seven speakers and open your heart to stir God's wonderful gifts within you. Cost of \$40 per person includes four meals. For more information, call 780 352-2365.
[See brochure included with this issue.](#)

Mexico Pilgrimage 2016

In April 2016, Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie serving as chaplain on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. If you'd like more information, [download the poster here.](#)

Images of Hope: Recovery Retreat for Women

Addiction takes many forms and affects all of us - our families and society. Archbishop Sylvain Lavoie offers a holistic approach to the 12 Step Program for those who are interested in healing and growing both personally and spiritually. The group will explore the role of prayer, fellowship and self-awareness in a spirituality of wellness and recovery. There will be a blend of information, quiet time for reflection and prayer, with optional sharing and fellowship. From 7 p.m. Friday evening, **October 2** to 1 p.m. Sunday, **October 4**. Register by **September 25** with Star of the North at 780-459-5511.

[More Parish & Community News »](#)

School News

Statement from ECS Board Chair

In response to those concerned by various comments about how the Edmonton Catholic School District meets the needs of transgender students, Board Chair Debbie Engel explained in the following statement:

As Chair, I have heard from many stakeholders and the community, asking what Edmonton Catholic Schools is doing to create discrimination-free environments.. To help explain why more time is being taken to develop Board policy, I would like to share the following information with you to assure you that our students are not being left unprotected:

There are two levels of policy within a school District. The first is a Governance Policy that offers a logical process for the Board of Trustees to effectively govern. These policies articulate the expectations and boundaries within which the staff must operate. The second is an Administrative Policy (and Regulation) that is used daily to guide the detailed operation of each school and interactions with students, staff and families.

Although the Board of Trustees is currently working on a thorough Governance Policy, there is an Administrative Policy and Regulation at the school level already in place to direct our staff in serving our students as it relates to creating environments free of discrimination. These include the following elements:

- Provides all students, staff and families with an inclusive, respectful, caring and safe Catholic environment that promotes the well-being of all and fosters community support for achieving this goal,
- Respects the confidentiality of all students and their families,
- Allows for student records to reflect the preferred name of students,
- Ensures that gender designations only appear in administrative/data reports where legally required,
- Mandates training for staff on diversity and sensitivity,
- Outlines expectations of language and behaviours and how to deal with situations when the expectations are not followed regulation isn't followed
- Provides for age appropriate education to students on inclusive language and behaviours permeated through all aspects of the school day and life.

I strongly encourage you to read the 'Commitment to Inclusive Communities' Administrative Policy and Regulation. Visit our website at www.ecsd.net and scroll down to What's New in the District on the homepage, or use this link to both documents: <https://goo.gl/TQ1Zyl>

Thank you.

Debbie Engel
Board Chair

Human Resources

Would you like serve as an administrative assistant in Pastoral & Parish Services at the Archdiocese?

OR

Sacred Heart Parish in Wetaskiwin is looking for a part-time administrative assistant ... could it be you?

[Read the full postings »](#)

Housing Ambassador

The Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative is seeking to hire a full-time Housing Ambassador. The main role to facilitate and assist the Interfaith Community across Edmonton in hosting community conversations about permanent supportive and affordable housing for the homeless residents of our city.

[Read the posting »](#)

What is the Archbishop thinking this week?

Find out by following his blog, [The Reason for Our Hope](#).



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Day of Confessions

Mark your calendar!

Our annual Day of Confessions in Lent 2016 is set for

Wednesday, February 17.

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