



March 2025

My Dear Brother Priests,

Blessings upon you and your ministry during this Jubilee Holy Year.

As we continue to proclaim Christ's Gospel of life and navigate together the issues surrounding end-of-life care, especially the threat of 'medical assistance in dying', I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the establishment of an Archdiocesan Day for Palliative Care and also to provide you with a valuable tool that will aid you in communicating our Catholic response to the faithful of our parishes.

After due consultation and discernment, and beginning this year, the last Sunday of October will be recognized as the Archdiocese of Toronto's Day for Palliative Care. Parishes will be provided with resources and materials so that we may continue to pray for those in palliative care and also to raise awareness and increase education surrounding end-of-life care.

The Archdiocese of Toronto's Office of Formation for Discipleship has been at the forefront of this life and death issue through their work with the rolling out of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Horizons of Hope* program. I have previously written to you about this remarkable resource, and now the Office has developed the enclosed brochure titled, "*Palliative Care and a Catholic Response to Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*."

It is my hope that this informative document be made available to all members of the Catholic community throughout our archdiocese. In it, the basics of palliative care are explained; many reasons to choose palliative care are outlined succinctly; the dignity of human life until natural death is explained; and lastly, several other helps are provided including *HopeLine*, *Horizons of Hope*, and information on how to find other palliative care resources on the archdiocesan website.

Enclosed you will find an initial supply of brochures for distribution according to your bulletin quantities. I ask that you make this brochure available to your parishioners. Should you require additional brochures, please reach out to our Office of Formation for Discipleship at 416-934-3400 x523 or by email at [formation@archtoronto.org](mailto:formation@archtoronto.org). To reach as many members of the Catholic community as possible, the brochure is available in English as well as in French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese Traditional as well as Chinese Simplified.

I thank you, dear Fathers, wholeheartedly for the generosity of your pastoral service and now especially, as we celebrate this Holy Year, for the apostolic efforts you and your parish team will deploy to defend, protect and promote the dignity of human life.

Sincerely yours in Jesus with Mary,

Frank Cardinal Leo  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto