



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

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September 11, 2019

Dear Pastors and Parish Support Staff,

The very first **National Catholic Health Care Week** will be celebrated from October 6 to October 12, 2019. During this week, we are invited as a Diocese to celebrate the ‘courageous gift of Catholic health care’ and the inspiring work of Catholic health care organizations in Canada.

At the heart of Catholic health care is a deep respect for the intrinsic value and dignity of every human being and an unwavering commitment to serve people from all backgrounds and faiths – most especially society’s most vulnerable. National Catholic Health Care Week and the theme of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada’s campaign this year is “Awaken – revealing the courageous gift of Catholic health care”. This is reflected in the story of the Good Samaritan found in the gospel of Luke: about a man who was “moved with compassion” (Luke 10:33) to care for a stranger in need. In this same spirit of compassion, Catholic health care provides services to millions of Canadians each year through innovative contributions which make the Canadian health care system, and our Canadian society, stronger.

To highlight the significance of Catholic health care in our Diocese, you are invited to join me in celebrating a special Mass in honour of health care workers and volunteers **at 7pm on Wednesday, September 18, 2019** at St. Andrew’s Cathedral.

Following that, on the weekend of October 5 and 6, 2019, I encourage you to include one of the enclosed prayers of the faithful, and to provide an opportunity for a brief message on Catholic health care to be shared at the end of all Masses. A proposed bulletin announcement is also included in the enclosed sheet, to be published in your parish bulletin that weekend. More resources may be found at http://www.chac.ca/awaken/index_e.php.

May we continue to pray for Catholic health care agencies across Canada, health care workers and volunteers, and all whom they serve. Thank you for your support of our Catholic hospitals, long-term care homes, social services and other Catholic health care agencies.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria

Encl. (1)