

**Halifax – Yarmouth Diocesan Council**  
**Christian Family Life**  
**Communique #3**  
**September 9,2022**

Dear Sisters in the League.

In her June Communique, National Chair Dorothy Johansen, encouraged us to continue our work in protecting the sanctity of life, including participation in “March for Life” and support for “Project Rachel.”

In Nova Scotia, the Project Rachel, is an outreach program by Nova Scotians United for Life. This group has been providing post-abortion support for over 20 years. The NSUL website has informative articles related to all aspects of sanctity of life. [Nova Scotians United for Life - About \(nsul-pr.com\)](http://nsul-pr.com). One article, “The Unintended Consequences of Legalized Euthanasia in Canada”, by Deacon Larry Worthen, speaks about how palliative care providers are increasingly required to offer MAID services to receive governmental funding. This practice could reduce funding for quality palliative care. It can also have psychological effects on vulnerable patients in care.

According to the “Third Annual Report on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada 2021, more than 80% of MAID recipients received palliative care. It is concerning that palliative care and MAID are so closely linked.

According to the report, MAID death in Canada increased from 1,018 in 2016 to 10,016 in 2021. In Nova Scotian the increase was from 24 in 2016 to 245 in 2021.

[Third annual report on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada 2021 - Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca)

The report also discusses the reasons people request MAID:

“In 2021, the most commonly cited source of suffering by individuals requesting MAID was the loss of ability to engage in meaningful activities (86.3%), followed by loss of ability to perform activities of daily living (83.4%), and inadequate control of pain, or concern about controlling pain (57.6%).”

Deacon Worthen’s article touched on palliative care patients not wanting to be a burden to others. In a vulnerable state, if palliative care and MAID are offered in the same place, people may make different choices.

It is important for each of us to reassure our families that they could never be a burden and that caring for them is a blessed gift. In the same way, we must remember to allow others to be there for us in our suffering. We must also remember that our lives always have dignity, independent of the activities we are capable of doing.

God Bless

Patty Dorrian  
Christian Family Life Chair