

# Community of Care

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish will be hosting a workshop on:

## **Advanced Care Planning: A Catholic Perspective**

**When:** Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Sacred Heart Cathedral (lower church)

On September 1, 2011, legislation was enacted in British Columbia regarding written advance care directives, by which individuals express their wishes regarding end of life care and treatment, should they become unable to make decisions or make their wishes known.

The Catholic Health Association of British Columbia (CHABC) has released a booklet addressing these issues from a catholic, faith-based perspective, in order to help individuals “make their future care and treatment wishes known in a way that respects life, the dignity of the human person and that complies with Church teaching.” It addresses important questions such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, artificial nutrition and hydration, organ donation, palliative care, etc. This document, supported by the bishops of British Columbia and the Yukon, has met with unprecedented success and has been widely distributed across the province.

As part of its Community of Care initiative, Sacred Heart Cathedral has asked CHABC to come to Prince George and present a workshop on Advance Care Planning.

**You are therefore invited to attend a presentation by Susan House, CHABC Executive Director, where she will discuss the current BC Legislation and the related Church teaching and show you how to plan for end-of-life care within these frameworks.**

**Who should attend:** all interested Catholics from Prince George and surrounding communities; in particular, seniors, caregivers, health professionals, anyone caring for elderly or sick family members.

This workshop will be followed by a **presentation on Parish Nursing**, by Kit Mytyke, Past President of CHABC. This presentation will be of particular interest to Pastoral teams, PPC members, volunteer pastoral visitors, health professionals.

**Fee:** by donation

**Registration:** by phone, at Sacred Heart Cathedral parish office: 250-564-5225, or email: [shcath@shawcable.com](mailto:shcath@shawcable.com)

Please register by

**Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup>. Please specify whether you will be attending both presentations, or only one (and in that case, which one).**

| <b>Schedule</b>    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 am            | Mass  |
| 9:45 am            | Registration and coffee   |
| 10:00 am-12:30 pm  | <b>Advanced Care Planning</b> , by Susan House, CHABC Executive Director  |
| 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm | <b>Parish Nursing</b> , by Kit Mykyte, Parish Nurse, CHABC Past President |



Archdiocese of Vancouver  
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

**A message from the Bishops of British Columbia and Yukon  
about planning for end-of-life care**

September 1, 2011

To the faithful in British Columbia:

We recognize that life is a precious gift from God and that He alone has dominion over it. God has made us stewards of life and that requires that we use every reasonable means to protect and preserve it and forbids any action intended to end life.

The complexity of end-of-life care can be overwhelming for those who may need to make decisions on behalf of a loved one no longer able to make them for him or herself. An advance care plan can help families and health care providers make decisions informed by the individual's expressed intentions.

To attempt to detail what you want to happen in specific medical situations could result in complicated and even confusing instructions. The Catholic Health Association of BC has produced a document in the "Advance Care Planning: A Catholic, Faith-Based Perspective" resource which allows you to express simply and clearly that you want your care and treatment to be carried out in accordance with the teachings of the Church.

Completing this document indicates that you embrace the value of the human person, recognize the duty to preserve life, realize that medical resources are finite and understand that decisions must take into account the unique nature of each case.

On behalf of all of the Bishops of British Columbia and Yukon, I encourage you to do this advance care planning and speak with your loved ones and physician about the care you wish to receive should the time come when you cannot speak for yourself.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ J. Michael Miller CSB*

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Archbishop of Vancouver

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