



## National Catholic Health Care Week 2020

September 1, 2020

Dear Bishops, Archbishops, and Cardinals:

**We will soon be celebrating our second annual National Catholic Health Care Week from Sunday, October 4 to Saturday, October 10, 2020.**

**We ask that you participate in the Week by sharing the message of Catholic health care in your parishes and communities through prayers of support, beginning Sunday, October 4.**

### **Awaken: Revealing the Courageous Gift of Catholic Health Care**

National Catholic Health Care Week is part of a broader Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (CHAC) initiative called [Awaken: Revealing the Courageous Gift of Catholic Health Care](#), an invitation to unite our voices and create a movement to boldly, confidently express the role, value, and impact of Catholic health care in Canada. Awaken cultivates ambassadors and advocates to be vocal, informed supporters of Catholic health care and the healing ministry of Jesus in Canada. Each of us contributes to this campaign through conversations we have with influencers and decision-makers in our communities, provincially, and nationally.

### **A Challenging Landscape, An Enduring Mission**

Health care around the world has been challenged in unimaginable ways since our inaugural National Catholic Health Care Week last year with the pandemic spreading quickly and relentlessly around the globe over the past eight months.

COVID-19 has transformed our health care landscape and society. In Canada, the pandemic has shone a public light on many important issues, perhaps most significantly the vulnerability and marginalization of our seniors. It has initiated public discussion about concepts at the heart of our Catholic ministry—community, solidarity, common good, and our social responsibility to those most vulnerable. And, individually, it has called us all to reflect on quality of life, the importance of human connection, and the meaning of wellbeing—body, mind and spirit.

The pandemic has also highlighted the timeless relevance of Catholic social teaching and our collective role in building a Canadian society that reaches out to every person who is suffering from illness, stigma, poverty, or loneliness.

Our Catholic identity is grounded in a core belief that it is a privilege to attend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those we serve, offering them comfort, healing, and love.

Catholic health care providers have carried this enduring mission into an uncertain world where those we serve—and those who serve them—struggle under the burden of isolation, fear, depression, separation, fatigue, and uncertainty each day.

Throughout this challenging time, we have witnessed the tremendous depth and strength of our people and stories of courage, hope, and resilience. We follow the example of our Founding Sisters—visionary and resourceful women who advocated for those most at risk and faced insurmountable challenges with compassion, courage and innovation.

Their ministry has become our mission in a modern and challenging world.



## National Catholic Health Care Week 2020

### **National Catholic Health Care Week 2020: Focus and Resources**

**This year, National Health Care Week seeks to build understanding, connection and trust about our mission and contribution as a Catholic health community in Canada's pandemic response. We are proud of our collective response to the pandemic and grateful for the privilege of living the Gospel as a source of hope and healing in today's world.**

Please pray for our Catholic health care ministry during National Catholic Health Care Week, and use the following resources to raise awareness in your dioceses and local parishes.

#### **Prayers of the Faithful and Sunday Bulletin Announcement**

Attached are suggested Prayers of the Faithful and a bulletin announcement, that can adapted as necessary by local parishes.

#### **Daily Reflections**

Attached is a set of five daily reflections that can be used during National Catholic Health Care Week to engage the faithful and the community. They celebrate the mission-inspired efforts of our teams, encourage personal reflection, and promote understanding of how our Catholic identity and tradition has guided and strengthened our response to the pandemic. The themes were drawn from the Awaken Message which was crafted through cross-country consultation and articulates four pillars that define our unique role and impact in Canada.

#### **Awaken Resources**

The Awaken Message, along with a fact sheet outlining the footprint of Catholic health care in Canada, is also attached. More Awaken resources including [key messages](#), a short [video](#), and [templates](#), are available on the [CHAC website](http://chac.ca) (chac.ca).

#### **Social Media Guide**

We ask that you also use your communication and engagement platforms to reveal the courageous gift of Catholic health care through stories, facts, and resources. An updated social media guide with ready-to-use posts and captions for Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook will be available for your use by mid-September through CHAC website. We encourage you to share the posts from Catholic health ministries in your diocese during this week as well.

Thank you for your continued prayers and blessing on our work and your faithful support of the health care ministry in Canada. Please call or email if you would like further information.

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## National Catholic Health Care Week 2020

# Prayers of the Faithful

The second annual National Catholic Health Care Week will be held Sunday, October 4 to Saturday, October 10, 2020. The Week recognizes the inspiring work of Catholic health care organizations across Canada.

We ask that you participate in the Week by sharing the message of Catholic health care in your parishes and communities through prayers of support, particularly during this especially challenging time of the pandemic.

*Reader:*

*We give thanks for the gift of Catholic health care in Canada and pray for all who carry on Jesus' healing ministry in our broken world today:*

1. For the Church, a company of believers who journey with the risen Lord, and who stand in prayerful solidarity with the sick, poor and marginalized.  
*We pray to the Lord.*
2. For Catholic hospitals, community health centers, and seniors care homes as they foster healing and hope for the people and communities they serve.  
*We pray to the Lord.*
3. For all people who serve our Catholic health care organizations – nurses, physicians, employees and volunteers - that they may reflect the face of Jesus as they care for those experiencing illness, disability, and end of life.  
*We pray to the Lord.*
4. For those receiving health care, especially those who are most vulnerable, that they experience empathy, compassion, and the love of God in the midst of health difficulties.  
*We pray to the Lord.*
5. For all who respond to challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to health care and our larger society; for courage to have important conversations about the experiences of illness, stigma, poverty or loneliness highlighted during this time.  
*We pray to the Lord.*
6. For the spiritual and physical well-being of all parishioners; for those who have died recently; and for those who mourn and suffer loss.  
*We pray to the Lord.*



National **Catholic Health Care Week 2020**

# Bulletin Announcement

**To run September 27 and/or October 4, 2020**

From October 4 to 10, we celebrate National Catholic Health Care Week across Canada. The Week recognizes the inspiring work of Catholic health care organizations in our province and across 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 serving all people, from all backgrounds and faiths—especially society’s most vulnerable.

This year the COVID-19 pandemic transformed our health care landscape and society. In Canada, the pandemic has shone a public light on many important social and ethical issues calling us all to reflect on the importance of human connection, quality of life, and the meaning of wellbeing—body, mind and spirit. The pandemic has also highlighted the timeless relevance of Catholic social teaching and our collective role in building a Canadian society that reaches out to every person who is suffering from illness, stigma, poverty, or loneliness.

During National Catholic Health Care Week, we give thanks for the courageous gift of Catholic health care during these challenging times—in hospitals, community health centers, or seniors care homes.

The pandemic calls us all to live the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Holding all those impacted by COVID-19 in our hearts, we ask God to bless the work of Catholic health care and we offer our prayers, support, and encouragement for the people of our Catholic health organizations who care for all in need with compassion and courage.

For more information about Catholic health care in Canada or the week, please visit the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada website at [www.chac.ca](http://www.chac.ca)



## National Catholic Health Care Week 2020

# Daily Reflections and Prayers

The second annual National Catholic Health Care Week will be held Sunday, October 4 to Saturday, October 10, 2020. The Week recognizes the inspiring work of Catholic health care organizations across Canada.

During this especially challenging time of the pandemic and discussion and action on racism, we offer daily reflections and prayers for each weekday to support you in acknowledging and reflecting on our work and collective impact.

### Monday, October 5, 2020

#### Reflection

This week we celebrate the inspiring work of Catholic health care organizations. 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 serving all people, from all backgrounds and faiths—especially society's most vulnerable.

#### Reflection questions

- What role does the gift of Catholic health care have in your community?
- Who are the most vulnerable in your community?
- How do you advocate for the dignity of every human being?

#### Prayer

*Healing God, at this particular time of pandemic and while we are seeking to find ways to reach out and communicate with the most vulnerable, such as seniors living in isolation, we give thanks today for the gift of Catholic health care we have experienced in our own lives and in our communities. We give thanks that Jesus' ministry of healing and reconciliation continues every day as people are healed, accompanied and supported. Bless all those who work to continue the ministry of healing in Catholic health care. Amen*



## Tuesday, October 6, 2020

### Reflection

This week we celebrate Catholic health care organizations' calling to serve. That calling is rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus. As part of that calling we focus on healing body, mind and spirit. Catholic health care was born of phenomenal, brave, and audacious women of faith over 400 years ago. Today, Catholic health care organizations honour their legacy in meeting the needs of families and communities across Canada. Over 125 Catholic health care providers serve more than five million people each year in rural towns and urban centres across Canada.

### Reflection questions

- What does Jesus' ministry of healing and reconciliation mean to you?
- What is your personal calling?
- How do you show the love of God?

### Prayer

*Loving God, we pray for those who are receiving care in our Catholic health care organizations, especially those who are most vulnerable. May they find empathy, compassion, and the love of God in the midst of health difficulties. May they see the face of God in those who accompany them on their journey. Amen*

## Wednesday, October 7, 2020

### Reflection

This week we celebrate the compassionate work of Catholic health care organizations. Catholic health care fosters a culture of encounter, where those involved in the healing journey are people first, and health care providers participate with those they serve with compassion and humanity. This culture creates awareness, both of self and others, and opportunities to build profound relationships and lasting impact on people's lives.

### Reflection questions

- Whose story can you really listen to today?
- How have you contributed to compassionate service towards those you serve?
- Is there a new awareness that you are being challenged to develop within our current social and health care environments to help you better understand and journey with others?

### Prayer

*God of grace, the courageous gift of Catholic health care is an offer to journey with people, building transformative relationships. We pray for all people who serve our Catholic health care organizations - nurses, physicians, employees, volunteers. Give them your strength, courage and love to do all they are called to do today. Amen*





## Thursday, October 8, 2020

### Reflection

This week we celebrate the courageous work of Catholic health care organizations and our commitment to social justice. Catholic health care is committed to working with our partners to create the conditions for a just and caring society, where people's voices are heard, and every person has the ability to thrive in community. With a focus on dignity, respect, and compassion, we advocate for service to individuals at times of their greatest vulnerability, and to create culturally safe environments of health and healing.

### Reflection questions

- How have you advocated for those you serve?
- What do you believe is your role in advancing social justice where you live and work?
- How have the recent efforts to reduce racism in your community affected you at a personal level?

### Prayer

*Life-giving God, we pray today that we would be courageous advocates for one another, that we would not be satisfied with systems and environments that contribute to illness and diminish our potential, but we would be bold advocates for justice and change. Like the congregations of religious Sisters who founded Catholic health organizations, may we have a spirit of boldness and audacity in to challenge restrictions and labels. May we be filled with courage, mercy and compassion. Amen*

## Friday, October 9, 2020

### Reflection

This week we celebrate the visionary work of Catholic health care organizations. Catholic health care makes the Canadian health care system stronger, more responsive, and more sustainable. Guided by our values and inspired by our Founding Sisters, Catholic health care is a resourceful and effective partner within the health system, responding to the communities we serve with compassion, ethical integrity and the highest quality care and services.

### Reflection questions

- How can you help tell the story build on the legacy of Catholic health care?
- Who can you reach out to support and encourage their ministry?
- What other opportunities are there for Catholic health care to provide healing and strengths for those in need?

### Prayer

*Sustaining God, during National Catholic Health Care Week, we pray for our Catholic hospitals, seniors care centers, social services and other health care agencies. May they continue to provide healing and give strength to the people and communities they serve. We give thanks for the legacy of compassionate care they provide for us and the vision for holistic health they call us to in the future. Amen*



Revealing the courageous gift  
of Catholic health care.

# awaken

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 serving all people, from all backgrounds and faiths – especially society's most vulnerable.

## We are purpose driven.

Our footprint on the Canadian health system is vast and our impact is great. Millions of Canadians seek care and services at our facilities each year, and we respond with compassion, innovation, and patient-centeredness. Our contributions make the Canadian health care system, and Canadian society, stronger.

Drawing on a legacy of faith and trust in Providence, we are courageous, resourceful, and confident in taking risks to meet needs. We are inspired by the example of our Founding Sisters – visionary women who for generations advocated and cared for the most destitute people in their communities.

## Their ministry has become our mission.

The message

### Our Calling to Serve

Rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, Catholic health care begins with a spiritual purpose. We have a deep and profound calling to serve and provide care to all people, especially those most vulnerable. We take a holistic and compassionate approach, recognizing the whole person in community, the fundamental link between spirituality and healing, and the diverse cultural and spiritual needs of those we serve.

### Our Culture of Encounter

Catholic health care fosters a culture of encounter, where those involved in the healing journey are people first, and health care providers participate with those they serve with compassion and humanity. This culture creates awareness, both of self and others, and opportunities to build profound relationships and lasting impact on people's lives.

### Our Commitment to Social Justice

Catholic health care is committed to collaborating with our partners to create the conditions for a just and caring society, where people's voices are heard, and every person has the ability to thrive in community. With a focus on dignity, respect, and compassion, we advocate for service to individuals at times of their greatest vulnerability, and to create culturally safe environments of health and healing.

### Our Leadership Role

Catholic health care makes the Canadian health care system stronger, more responsive, and more sustainable. Guided by our values and inspired by our Founding Sisters, we are pioneers, leaders, and innovators. We are resourceful and effective partners within the health system, responding to the communities we serve with compassion, ethical integrity and the highest quality care and services.





Révéler le cœur vaillant des soins  
de santé catholiques

# L'éveil

Au cœur des soins de santé catholiques se trouvent un profond respect pour la valeur intrinsèque et la dignité de tout être humain, et une volonté immuable de se mettre au service de tous – en particulier des personnes les plus vulnérables de la société – avec amour, sans égard à leurs origines ou à leur confession.

## Nos actions sont dictées par notre raison d'être.

Notre empreinte sur le système de santé canadien est large et notre impact profond. Chaque année, des millions de Canadiens et de Canadiennes viennent dans nos établissements pour obtenir des soins et des services et nous les accueillons avec compassion, un esprit novateur et une attention centrée sur eux. Notre contribution renforce le système de soins de santé du Canada et la société canadienne. En puisant dans notre héritage de foi et la providence, nous faisons preuve de courage, d'ingéniosité et d'audace pour satisfaire les besoins. L'exemple de nos Sœurs Fondatrices – des visionnaires qui ont œuvré pendant des générations pour les plus démunis – est une source d'inspiration.

## Leur ministère est devenu notre mission.

Le message

### Une vocation à servir

Ancrés dans le ministère de guérison de Jésus-Christ, les soins de santé catholiques émanent d'un objectif spirituel. Nous avons une vocation profonde à servir et soigner toutes les personnes, surtout les plus vulnérables. Nous adoptons une approche holistique et empreinte de compassion et nous reconnaissons la personne dans son entièreté, le lien fondamental entre spiritualité et guérison, et les divers besoins culturels et spirituels des personnes que nous servons.

### Une culture visant à aller à la rencontre d'autrui

Les soins de santé catholiques favorisent une culture de la rencontre, où tous ceux et celles qui sont en quête de guérison sont d'abord et avant tout des personnes, et auprès desquelles les professionnels de santé interviennent avec compassion et humanité. Cette culture amène une prise de conscience, aussi bien de soi que de l'autre, et la possibilité de nouer des rapports solides avec les autres et d'avoir une influence durable dans leur vie.

### Un engagement envers la justice sociale

Les soins de santé catholiques sont attachés à la collaboration avec nos partenaires en faveur d'une société juste et bienveillante où la voix de chacun est entendue et où chaque personne peut s'épanouir en communauté. En mettant l'accent sur la dignité, le respect et la compassion, nous défendons les soins prodigués aux personnes quand elles sont le plus vulnérable, et nous créons des milieux de soins et de guérison qui sont sûrs culturellement.

### Un rôle de chef de file

Les soins de santé catholiques renforcent le système de santé canadien, le rendent plus réactif et plus pérenne. Guidés par nos valeurs et inspirés par nos Sœurs Fondatrices, nous sommes des pionniers, des chefs de file et des innovateurs. Nous sommes des partenaires ingénieux et efficaces au sein du système de santé, nous intervenons auprès des communautés que nous servons avec compassion, probité, et en offrant des soins et des services de la plus haute qualité.



Revealing the courageous gift of Catholic health care.

