



The Catholic Bishops  
of Alberta

Les évêques catholiques  
de l'Alberta

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### March for Life – 10 May 2018

Dear Faithful in Christ,

Among the countless gifts we have received from God, surely the most blessed and beautiful is the gift of human life itself. Created in His image and likeness, each of us is endowed with an inalienable dignity.

Unfortunately, the truth of our human dignity is not always honoured in Canada. The obvious and most tragic example is abortion. The current lack of laws restricting abortion means that the life of a child in its mother's womb can be ended at any time. We have even seen abortion now falsely characterized as a "right" to which applicants for government grants must attest in order to qualify for funding. The need to speak out has never been more urgent.

Recently we have also witnessed the legalization of assisted suicide and euthanasia. While these practices have been promoted in the guise of mercy, they are in fact another sign of the mistaken and immoral belief that human life is disposable, and that some lives are simply not worth living. This has grave consequences for family life, for the medical community, and for our Canadian society as a whole.

We recognize that sometimes actions such as these are contemplated by persons who in moments of desperation feel that they have few or no options. These people are in need of not only our prayers but also practical assistance as we draw near to them in love with the hope-filled truth of the Gospel of Life.

As Catholics we know that every human life, from fertilization to natural death, is a precious gift. We are committed to protecting everyone, especially the most vulnerable. We are committed to offering mercy, comfort and love to those who suffer, not murder (cf. Ex 20:13; Mt 19:18).

We are also called to proclaim the Gospel message of life and love, through word and witness, to the world. One way to do this is by joining the Bishops of Alberta at the annual March for Life on Thursday, May 10. We invite you to pray with us at the Mass for Life at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Basilica in Edmonton. Following the celebration of the Eucharist, we will gather at 12 noon in front of the Alberta Legislature to hear some inspiring speakers before marching downtown.

A special invitation is extended to our Catholic teachers and students.

We hope you will journey with us on May 10<sup>th</sup> in support of the sanctity of all human life. May God bless you in your witness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT



Most Reverend Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton



Most Reverend William T. McGrattan  
Bishop of Calgary



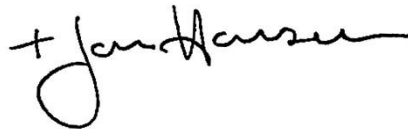
Most Reverend David Motiuk  
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton



Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR  
Archbishop Grouard-McLennan



Most Reverend Paul Terrio  
Bishop of St. Paul



Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSsR  
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith