

Christian Family Life

Date: July 10, 2020



Communiqué #10

Care for Our Common Home

TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC: National Executive (for information)
FROM: Pat Deppiessé, National Chairperson of Christian Family Life
ENCL: Letter to prime minister regarding ethical COVID-19 vaccine

I hope this communiqué finds you and your family well in the current environment of the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay safe, stay well, stay kind.

Attached is a copy of a letter addressed to the prime minister and copied to the minister of health from Most Rev. Richard Gagnon, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and Archbishop of Winnipeg; Moira McQueen, M.Div., PhD, Executive Director of Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, National President Anne-Marie Gorman, and other clergy and scientists. [Please note the complete list of signatories is not included in the enclosure]. The letter recognizes the government's generous commitment to funding research to discover a vaccine for COVID-19, congratulates the government on how it has handled the pandemic thus far and urges it to “develop a vaccine that does not create an ethical dilemma for many Canadians.”

The letter states, “On one hand, the wide uptake of vaccines is essential to protect citizens from the transmission of disease. On the other, a vaccine produced using abortion-derived cell lines raises conscience concerns for anyone who might be offered that vaccine and is aware of its lineage. This dilemma will emerge if there are no alternatives to vaccines developed with the use of human fetal cell lines obtained from elective abortions.”

Yes, a vaccine is urgently needed; however, it can be created using other means to ensure it does not create an ethical dilemma for Canadians. Please encourage members to consider writing as private citizens to the prime minister and minister of health in support of Canadian bishops and to express their personal thoughts.

God bless and keep you safe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Deppiessé".

Pat Deppiessé
National Chairperson of Christian Family Life