

April 8, 2016

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada, Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

You probably receive many letters from Canadians, so I will try to be brief in voicing my concerns regarding the up-coming legislation on Euthanasia/Physician Assisted Death.

I find it most appalling that the Government of Canada is caving in to the demand from the Supreme Court of Canada to frame regulations for Euthanasia/Physician Assisted Death. When such motions were made in the House of Commons in the past they were all soundly defeated. The Court has given Parliament a defined period of time within which to frame a new law regulating PAD. Rushing to meet an imposed deadline on such an important matter is most unwise and will surely lead to great harm as has happened elsewhere.

You are surely aware that in countries like Belgium some patients have been euthanized without their consent. I cannot see how anyone could be in favour of legislation that would lead to the unjust killing of a suffering human being. How would anyone want such a thing on his/her conscience?

Do members of the Legislature not have the backbone and maturity to stand up to the Judiciary, a small un-elected group of individuals, who are presenting themselves as the new law- makers here in Canada and say NO to PAD?

Furthermore, some of our best and most compassionate people are doctors and health care workers. Coercing them to either perform themselves or to refer a patient to another physician willing to perform a procedure they themselves believe to be morally wrong would be a great injustice. We need to respect such people of conscience, and not attempt to corrupt their minds. Societies that fail to do so soon fall prey to tyranny and sink into a moral abyss.

As the pastor of a Mississauga parish, I find myself dealing with people, many of them ever so young and fragile, who are talking about committing suicide, who, for one reason or another, feel that their lives aren't worth living. Even the suggestion I believe, that suicide is anything

but a very sad and tragic solution is an abandonment of responsibility and a failure to provide what is really needed by those who are suffering.

If the Canadian government is determined to move forward on this, I can only pray that the implications of any impending legislation will be carefully pondered and truly serve the common good, including respecting the conscience of physicians and caring for the most vulnerable among us.

Sincerely,

Neil J. McMillan

Pastor  
St. Mary Star of the Sea  
Mississauga, Ontario