



Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care

Digital media toolkit

Publication of the free-of-cost toolkit for parishes on palliative care will take place **15 & 16 November 2021**. The launch will begin with an instructional webinar and open access to all instructional material at cccb.ca.

“Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care” seeks to:

- Empower and educate parishioners by addressing questions surrounding palliative care, dying, death, suffering, accompaniment, and bereavement in a holistic fashion.
- Present high-quality content that explores how palliative care is understood from a perspective of Catholic moral and pastoral theology, medical expertise and the *Compassionate Community* model.
- Facilitate meaningful conversations together so that our parishes and families become Compassionate communities, grounded in the mercy and tenderness of the living Christ.

Why Promote Palliative Care in our Parishes?

When confronted with a life-limiting diagnosis, we can find ourselves in an unfamiliar and even frightening situation. These moments are usually marked by having to make numerous practical decisions surrounding care and support for loved ones and ourselves. More often than not, such decisions require moral discernment through the lens of our faith. We believe in the dignity and sacredness of human life at all stages, from conception to natural death. At the same time, our faith does not demand that life is to be sustained at all costs.

As Catholics, our faith in Jesus Christ has much to teach us about living and dying well. **Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care** is designed to help each of us – caregivers, the sick and dying and family members – to find support and concrete assistance.

Who developed this resource?

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) formed a Joint *Ad hoc* Committee on Palliative Care with a variety of partners and experts to address the increasing complexities regarding end-of-life issues in Canada. The Committee members included representatives from Pallium Canada, Dominican University College, Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Canada.

What themes do the four modules cover?

Module 1 – Understanding the human experience of dying and death (2-hour parish-based program)

Module 2 – Discerning and making decisions at the end of life (2-hour parish-based program)

Module 3 – Accompanying those at the end of life (2-hour parish-based program)

Module 4 – Supporting and integrating within the wider community (2-hour parish-based program)

For whom is the program designed?

- Those seeking to learn more about palliative care and Catholic Church teaching on end-of-life;
- Caregivers;
- Persons who have recently been diagnosed with a terminal illness;
- Family members who need resources and guidance as they journey with a loved one who is seriously or terminally ill; and
- Parishioners and pastoral care teams who want to form a Compassionate Community program.

What does the toolkit include?

- Q&A Facilitator's Guide
- Four Modules
- Short Videos (available on YouTube and for direct download)
- Reflection Sheets and Resource Lists in Appendices
- Links to external resources

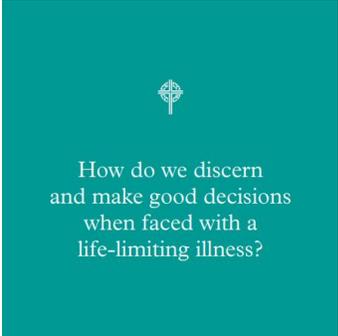
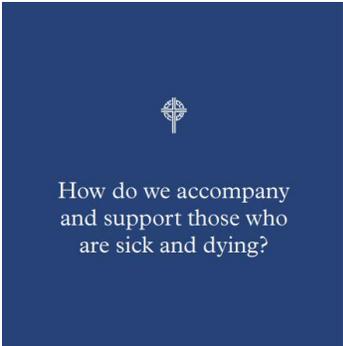
Social Media Posts and Hashtag

You are invited to promote *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care* on your social media platforms and use #horizonsofhope when doing so.

We have provided pre-designed posts for Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook – or you can create your own. Posts and captions ideas are below. High resolution images are available for download at cccb.ca.

Note: *The social media assets are available in sets of 4 (for multiple image posts and encourage post interaction). You may use all four images in a post, or pick and choose what works for you.*

See sample posts below.

Post	Sample Caption
<p>How do we discern and make good decisions when faced with a life-limiting illness?</p> 	<p>Do you have questions about how our Catholic faith helps us navigate end-of-life questions?</p> <p>Discover this free program developed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops that brings together theological and medical expertise to answer your questions!</p> <p>Learn more at cccb.ca</p> <p>#horizonsofhope</p>
<p>How do we accompany and support those who are sick and dying?</p> 	<p>Do you see a need in your family or in community to accompany and support those at the end of life?</p> <p>Explore new ideas and ways to be a presence of hope for those at the end of life by using this free Toolkit for Catholic Parishes, published by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.</p> <p>Learn more at cccb.ca</p> <p>#horizonsofhope</p>
<p>Discover how to provide compassionate care at the end of life</p> 	<p>St. James Parish invites you to join the four-part program, entitled “Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care”.</p> <p>During January, we will host parishioners on Thursday evenings to share and discuss the importance of palliative care.</p> <p>Learn more about how we can respond to our Christian call to provide compassionate care for our loved ones at the end of life.</p> <p>#horizonsofhope</p> <p>Register by calling the parish office at 333-333-3333</p>

How does our faith in Christ help us to understand the human experience of dying and death?



How does our faith
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Would you like to learn more about how our Faith in Christ helps us to understand the human experience of dying and death?

Join us at St. Ann's Parish on Saturday afternoon 1 – 3 p.m. during the month of May.

#horizonsofhope