



# CHABC Newsletter

CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## The Parish Nurse Initiative is Launched



*Saint Michael's Pastor Monsignor Bernard Rossi with Parish Nurse Louise Deschênes*

The culmination of years of preparatory work has been realized with the establishment of Parish Nursing at *Saint Michael's Parish* in Burnaby. This is the first such initiative in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the first in the province to have been established in a Catholic Church by a trained Parish Nurse.

Monsignor Bernard Rossi, Pastor at *Saint Michael's* told CHABC: "After many years of planning, *Saint Michael's Parish* is able to open its Parish Nurse's Office. We are deeply grateful to the *Saint Mary's Health Foundation*, whose generous grant enabled us to start. We are also fortunate that our first Parish Nurse is one of our own parishioners, Louise Deschênes, who as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion to the sick is already well acquainted with some of the needs in our community. Through her service, the Parish will greatly enhance its outreach, bringing the

healing ministry of Jesus to the sick. We hope that *Saint Michael's Parish Nurse* will be the first of many throughout the Archdiocese and Province."

Other faith groups have gone before us – the Baptists, the Lutherans, the Salvation Army and the United Church, for example – and we salute them for paving the way. At *Saint Michael's*, parishioner and Parish Nurse Louise Deschênes has taken on the task of establishing this service to the parish. Her first event was a session for those with chronic illnesses at which she provided them with a health record booklet in which they could record all of their medications in one place for ease of reference for family and other care providers.

A Parish Nurse is a registered nurse with specialized knowledge who is called to a vocation and affirmed by a faith community to promote health, healing and wholeness.

The role of the Parish Nurse is to promote the integration of faith and health in a variety of ways that reflect the values and beliefs of the faith community. Specific examples include health advocacy, health counselling, health education and resource referral.

A Parish Nurse must be registered in the province in which the nurse practises. The nurse's license or certificate of competence must be

valid and current. This ensures that the public is receiving safe and competent care. The Parish Nurse must have specialized knowledge which meets the criteria of the core learning competencies developed by the *Canadian Association for Parish Nursing Ministry*. Across Canada there are several programs with relevant curriculum to provide this specialized knowledge. Louise recently graduated with honours in Parish Nursing from Concordia University College in Alberta.

### Mark Your Calendar

CHABC's annual conference will be held on **Thursday, September 15th** at the **Executive Plaza Hotel** in Coquitlam. Our theme for the day will be "*The Things We Do for Love*" and will focus on the care we provide in our facilities and parishes to our most vulnerable populations. The day will start with Mass celebrated by Vancouver Archbishop Michael Miller. Our keynote speaker will be Sr. Sue Mosteller, CSJ, who has worked at L'Arche for the past thirty-one years, providing care and love to mentally challenged residents. Other speakers will talk about their work with those who live with dementia, those who need eye care but can't afford to pay for it, those who need organ transplants, those who are dying, those who have babies for whom they can't provide care and those who care for the mentally ill. Registration details will be available soon.

## The Privacy Act and its Implications for Health Care

If you or a family member are admitted to hospital and you wish to have a priest visit, please be sure to have someone call the rectory or parish office to make this request. Your pastor may have no other way of knowing that you are in hospital, as privacy legislation is sometimes used to restrict the information that is be given to him by the hospital.

Pastors may wish to include a note about this in an upcoming Sunday bulletin, advising parishioners that they need to call the rectory or parish office about hospital admissions by the individual or the family.

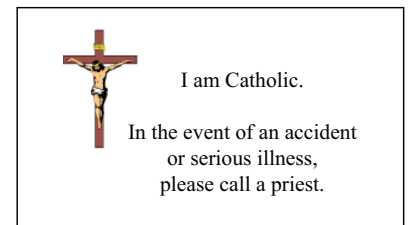
CHABC continues to work with health authorities around the province to ensure that those who are admitted to care facilities and wish to have a pastoral visit are accommodated. This is especially difficult in those hospitals where health authorities have terminated the positions of Spiritual Care Practitioners.

## Pastoral Care Resources Available from CHABC

Our Association's Pastoral Care Committee has developed a library of resources over the past several years that we provide to our members at no cost. These publications are meant for those who are admitted to hospital and other care facilities or who are homebound. Those who visit these individuals are encouraged to request these booklets and brochures by calling us at 604-524-3427 or sending an email to [smhouse@shawlink.ca](mailto:smhouse@shawlink.ca). Let us know if you wish to receive copies of any of the following:

- "Let Us Pray" - - a booklet containing prayers that are most common to Catholics
- "Pray for me... now and at the hour of my death" - - a collection of Catholic prayers that can be read at the bedside of someone who is dying
- "What you need to know about a Catholic Funeral and Burial" - - a brochure that summarizes the BC Bishops' booklet on the same subject

- "How to Pray the Rosary" - - a laminated card in large print
- "A Simple Guide for Confession" - - intended for those who require assistance in preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- A brochure about the Sacrament of the Sick, produced in collaboration with the BC Bishops for World Day of the Sick 2009
- Catholic Identity Cards (wallet size)



- A new booklet of reflections on suffering and illness, including selections from Thomas Merton, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Blessed Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa.

## World Day of the Sick 2011

February 11th marked the 19th Anniversary of World Day of the Sick, a celebration instituted by Pope John Paul II to encourage the sick to reflect on the Christian meaning of suffering and to recall God's health-giving presence. More than 400 people gathered at *Our Lady of Sorrows Church* in Vancouver where Archbishop Miller celebrated the Mass of Anointing, with seven priests concelebrating. In his homily, the Archbishop said there are no easy answers about the meaning of suffering, but he emphasized that no satisfying answer can be found without the light of faith. He offered that "illness becomes an opportunity to assume a new and precious vocation in the Church".



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## Long Serving CEO to Retire in July

### Michael Pontus Set to Leave *Saint Joseph's General Hospital*



Michael Pontus, President and CEO  
*Saint Joseph's General Hospital, Comox*

Michael Pontus has spent thirty-five years in the health care management field – the last twenty-one years as President and CEO of *Saint Joseph's General Hospital* in Comox. In

January, he announced his intention to retire at the end of July.

*Saint Joseph's* Board Chair Ron Philip said that, while the board deeply regrets Michael's decision to retire, "it has been clearly demonstrated that he has provided diligent, long and faithful service to the hospital, the health care system and the residents of the Comox Valley and northern Vancouver Island".

*CHABC* also regrets to see Michael leave his position at *Saint Joseph's*. Over the past several decades, he has served as Chair of the *Catholic Health Association of Canada* as well as of the *Catholic Health*

*Association of BC*, the latter of which he sat on the board for numerous years. He is currently a board member of the *Denominational Health Association*, a position he has held for most of the past sixteen years.

Michael's contributions to faith-based health care in British Columbia are significant. He is a tireless, respectful and faithful promoter of providing health care in the tradition of the Catholic Church.

*CHABC* wishes Michael all the best as he retires to spend more time with his wife, Peggy, his children and his grandchildren.

## "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You"

### Carol Taylor Workshop for Pastoral Care Workers and Volunteers

*CHABC* is sponsoring a one-day workshop for those who work and volunteer in Pastoral Care on June 27th at the *Inn at the Quay Hotel* in New Westminster. Carol Taylor will facilitate.

Dr. Taylor is a nurse, educator, ethicist, public speaker and author. She has served since 1999 as the Director of the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. She engages audiences around the world with her

invitation to professionals and the public at large to think seriously about the difference they are making in our world.

This one-day workshop will be comprised of four sessions:

- Holistic health, healing and spirituality
- Becoming a healing presence
- Suffering, hope and human flourishing
- Trying on new healing behaviours

Carol is absolutely committed to the belief that we are all created in God's image. If God is love, then each of us is called to be love in our own world of connections. She admits to being baffled by the fact that the human heart runs amok so often, but finds new reasons every morning to be hopeful.

Carol is a thoughtful, engaging and humorous woman who encourages individuals to value their own and one another's gifts to renew our world.

Cost for the day is \$90. Registration brochures are available by calling the *CHABC* office or on our website at [www.chabc.bc.ca](http://www.chabc.bc.ca) under "upcoming events". If you wish to attend, please register early as seating is limited.



Dr. Carol Taylor

## Art Demers

### Rest in Peace

*CHABC* was saddened to learn about the death last month of Art Demers, a parishioner at *Star of the Sea Parish* in White Rock. Art was a founding member of *CHABC's* Ethics Committee in 1996 as a representative for *Providence Health Care* and served as a faithful member of the committee for many years. We are grateful for his involvement with our Association and we send heartfelt condolences to his family.

## Advance Care Directive Legislation to be Enacted in September

In 2007, legislation was passed in Victoria that addressed the issue of Advance Care Directives, but that legislation was never enacted. In February, Deputy Attorney General David Loukidelis announced that the provisions of the Adult Guardianship and Planning Statutes Amendment Act, 2007 will come into force on September 1, 2011.

CHABC has been eagerly awaiting this announcement that will legalize written Advance Care Directives in BC – the only province in Canada without a law to deal with this matter. The package of regulations that will come into force in September will detail the requirements for the preparation of written directions that can be used by loved ones and care providers should an individual become unable to speak for him or herself.



Some of BC's health authorities have documents already in use for this purpose, such as the "My Voice" document in Fraser Health. Although the law has not yet been enacted, these documents are very useful to families and loved ones and

are respected by professional care providers as a useful guide in providing care and treatment.

CHABC is now finalizing an Advance Care Directive document for the Catholic community that takes into account the teaching of the Church in making end-of-life decisions. It has been reviewed by the BC Bishops and they have endorsed its contents. The document includes definitions of terms such as "the principle of double effect" and "ordinary" and "extraordinary" care, as well as simple

explanations of our responsibilities as Catholics in making decisions on such issues as Withholding and Withdrawing Treatment, Artificial Nutrition and Hydration, Attempting Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Organ Donation. It also provides a provision for individuals to record their wishes for their funeral and burial, if they wish to do so.

We hope to have this document available in the coming months and will distribute it to all parishes in BC and Yukon once it is completed.

## An Easter Message from the CHABC Board of Directors

"For God so loved the World that He gave His only Son; that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16



Rick Folka  
CHABC President

May the Joy of this Holy Easter Season fill your hearts with Love throughout the Year.



### CHABC Membership

Would you like to support our Association by becoming a member? Members automatically receive our newsletters and regular updates about health care issues that relate to our faith. Your support as a member enables CHABC to promote Catholic Health Care by communicating with government, health authorities and other health associations. Annual dues for individuals are \$45 and \$65 for families. Associate dues are \$160 for parishes, CWLs or Knights Councils.