



Dear NACN-Canada members,

As we approach the wonderful celebration of Our Lord's birth, the Church remembers Mary's joyful visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Both mothers embraced God's will. They welcomed unexpected pregnancies and raised sons who brought us the good news of redemption from sin. Like the Christ Child, infants and small children bring such hope and delight into the world, and it is a treasure to watch their response as they learn the meaning of Christmas.

In my community this week, we celebrated a "Christmas miracle" when no children were injured in a serious explosion at a daycare centre. Sadly, as Canadians, we are also aware of the many children who die before birth because of induced abortion, and of the Indigenous children who were removed from their families to live in residential schools. Too many of them were abused, became ill with serious infections, or never returned home. What unending suffering this has caused for generations of families. As Catholic nurses, it is good for us to examine the impact of this history on our Indigenous patients' engagement with health care systems and professionals so that we can provide culturally safe care.

This year has brought remarkable stories of nurses who accompanied patients that were separated from their families as they died from COVID. Despite exhaustion, these nurses expressed their love for each person in the care that they gave. NACN-Canada provides a forum for nurses to refresh their energy and commitment through prayer and conversation. Access the link on our [All members' page](#) to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with us on First Fridays. Join Father Michael Eades of the Toronto Oratory on January 25, 2022 through the link on our schedule at <https://catholicnurses.ca/>. On January 1, please renew your membership or [Join us!](#)

Our advocacy efforts to limit the expansion of eligibility for medically induced death were largely unsuccessful this year. We and many fine colleagues in the legal and medical professions tried to support politicians who recognized the risks of the new legislation. Let's continue to pray for Canadians to have the courage to promote the culture of life, not the culture of death.

In closing, I would like to ask you to pray the rosary for the success of the [World Congress](#) of our parent organization of Catholic nurses, CICIAMS. This meeting is held in North America only every 12 years, and two of our members hope to present papers there. We would love to have you join us in Pennsylvania Aug. 2-4, 2022. The early bird registration deadline is Dec. 31, 2021. Keep in mind that your fees will cover the new date if COVID interferes with current plans.

May God bless you and your family this Christmas and always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen McGee".

Helen McGee, RN MN CPMHNC
President, NACN-Canada