



Mexican friends Ana Rosa Bernal Morales and Margarita Ortiz with Helen McGee at the CICIAMS XXI World Congress



Jim and Helen McGee with the banner of Our Lady of the Cape before the procession to the opening Mass of the XXI World Congress of CICIAMS



Helen McGee and Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, biographer of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska

Dear Members and Friends,

This year, our association strengthened its links with CICIAMS, the Comité International Catholique des Infermières at Assistantes Médico-Sociales, the International Committee of Catholic Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (Advanced Practice Nurses and Nurse Practitioners). Catholic Nurses attended the XXI CICIAMS World Congress in August, 2022 in Pennsylvania from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Pan American regions. Canada, Mexico, and the USA make up the Pan American group; we agreed to produce a newsletter together to maintain contact.

The conference hosted the exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles developed by Blessed Carlo Acutis and the first day was dedicated to presentations regarding Marian apparitions throughout the world. The final three days included topics such as spiritual care, the rights of conscience, and informed consent, establishment of a non-profit charitable health clinic in Texas and the treatment of infertility using NaProTechnology developed at the [Saint Paul VI Institute](#). Other presentations included methods for supporting parents at the time of an unexpected prenatal diagnosis, compassion in healthcare as an antidote for stress and burnout, and topics on addiction, including innovative community-based spiritual care.

These were followed by talks on redemptive suffering at the end of life, a parish-based program in Everett, Washington that supports people at the end of life (Memento Mori: rstaley@smparish.org) and a research report on an educational program to encourage advance care planning in South Korea. Perhaps the highest-impact talk was about the horrors of human trafficking and the need for ER nurses to identify victims and where possible, refer them to the Order of Malta's Human Trafficking program. Finally, a panel presented the history of Irish nurses in Britain, the early years of NACN-Canada, and the history of CICIAMS. Besides the oral presentation, NACN-Canada's contribution included Shirley Christo's poster titled "Evolving Catholic Spiritual Care Ministry" about a circle of support for individuals and families. Please read the comprehensive Congress report in the Fall 2022 CICIAMS newsletter.

NACN-Canada will continue to contribute to CICIAMS' mission. Dr. Freida Chavez, our Past President, has volunteered to serve on the Professional and Ethics committees, Helen McGee on the Family committee, and Dr. Jody Macdonald on the Midwives committee. We have a uniquely Catholic and international network. We ask every NACN-C member to encourage five nurses to join us.

NACN-Canada hopes to promote interest in the cause for Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska's canonization by inviting Dr. Gosia Brykczynska to bring a relic of Blessed Hanna to Canada in 2023.



Helen McGee, RN MN CPMHNC, President, NACN-Canada



Fr. Thomas Nairn, OFM, and Geraldine McSweeney are experts on CICIAMS statutes and were immensely helpful in the design of NACN-Canada's statutes in 2018. Fr. Nairn is the outgoing International Ecclesial Assistant of CICIAMS and has been replaced by Fr. Ken Sleyman, MM of Tenshi College in Japan.



Helen McGee and NACN-Canada's President-Elect Louela Manankil-Rankin joined the Toronto Right to Life March on May, 2022. Please send us the photos of your participation in a March for Life in 2023!



Marie Nicolini, MD PhD is a psychiatrist and ethicist delivered a lecture on "Suicide Prevention and MAiD for Mental Disorders: The Conceptual Challenge" on Oct. 20 2022 at the U of T Faculty of Law. She has published papers on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. Her papers explore the competence of people with dementia who request euthanasia, the reasons that people with mental illness request euthanasia, and the difficulty distinguishing between those who request euthanasia for mental illness and those who require suicide prevention. Lectures in the series are sometimes available on YouTube.

Policy changes at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) regarding Human Rights and MAiD

Deadline: Nov. 28 2022 (Note that the consultation period ended at least one week before the published date for a previous consultation).

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) has invited comments on its draft policy [Human Rights in the Provision of Health Services](#) through the following link: [Consultation page for Human Rights in the Provision of Health Services Policy](#). See also the [Advice](#) document when preparing your comments.

The same Nov. 28 2022 deadline applies for comments on the policy [Medical Assistance in Dying](#). See the associated compendium document: [Advice](#) to the Profession: Medical Assistance in Dying. **To submit feedback on MAiD policy, go to: [Consultation page for Medical Assistance in Dying](#)**

Please see NACN-Canada's letter to the Deputy Minister of Health of Ontario for ideas on how you might respond to these proposals.





PO Box 19525, 55 Bloor St. West,
Toronto ON M5S 1M2
October 24, 2022

Dr. Catherine Zahn,
Deputy Minister of Health, Ontario

Dear Dr. Zahn,

I am writing to ask that you and the Minister of Health prioritize legislation to protect the freedom of conscience and religion of Ontario health professionals. The context for this request is the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's (CPSO's) draft policy, "Human Rights in the Provision of Health Services" (HRPHS, 2022). I am not confident that CPSO's public consultation on the precursor to HRPHS genuinely considered the perspective that I present in this letter.

The HRPHS draft policy "will be used by the College and its Committees when considering physician practice or conduct." It is extremely prescriptive and coercive, leaving little space for clinical judgment. Physicians with conscientious or religious objections to controversial practices are specifically targeted in HRPHS. For example, "physicians who choose not to assess patients for or provide MAiD for reasons of conscience or religion" are required to document the date of all oral and written requests. They "**must** provide...enough information about all available or appropriate clinical options". They "**must not**: express personal moral judgments about...the health services that patients are considering." They "**must** provide" [unsolicited] information on all available clinical options [including MAiD] and timely effective referrals. They "**must** ...confirm that a patient was connected...and **must** take further action to provide an effective referral" if the first referral failed (HRPHS, 2022). These requirements facilitate an expedited MAiD process.

Respect for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity involves not only respect for patients. Health professionals with religious beliefs ought to be represented in all the professions so that the needs of a diverse population are better served. Current legislation and college policies would exclude many sincere practitioners of various faith groups from clinical practice, since CPSO's policies also influence the College of Nurses of Ontario and other professional colleges.

When health care professionals are expected and coerced to act against their conscience, we create a system that removes the final safeguard to protecting patients. We need provincial legislation to enforce the true exercise of freedom of conscience because it protects patients and fosters a health care system that encourages sound ethical life and death decisions.

Professional colleges in Ontario would be obliged to adhere to provincial legislation that protects the freedom of conscience and religion of their registrants. Please make this a priority.

Helen McGee, MN, CPMHNC
President, National Association of Catholic Nurses – Canada

The Executive Director of a retirement home has contacted NACN-C to alert our members about job opportunities, including both staff and leadership positions. If you are interested and able to work in southwestern Ontario, please let us know at nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com

NACN-C board meetings are open to members and will be held on the following dates:

Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, 1-6 pm Planning meeting with dinner afterward

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 7:00-8:45 pm Praying with The Luminous Mysteries
Library, Newman Centre, 55 Hoskin Ave., Toronto and by Zoom

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7:00-8:45 pm Topic TBD
Library, Newman Centre, 55 Hoskin Ave., Toronto and by Zoom

April, 2023 Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska:
Holy Mass and veneration of the relic
Date, time and location to be confirmed

Thursday, June 1 (AGM) 7:00-8:45 pm
Location to be confirmed; also by Zoom

First Fridays at 3 p.m. over Zoom

Divine Mercy chaplet followed by informal updates from members, including reports on activities that relate to our association's objectives.

Do This in Memory of Me

Dom Gregory Dix, The Shape of the Liturgy

“Was ever another command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacles of earthly greatness to the refuge of the fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold, for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church, for the proclamation of a dogma or for a good crop of wheat, for the wisdom of the Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die, for a schoolboy sitting an examination or for Columbus setting out to discover America; for the famine of whole provinces or for the soul of a dead lover; in thankfulness because my father did not die of pneumonia; for a village headman much tempted to return to fetich because the yams had failed; because the Turk was at the gates of Vienna; for the repentance of Margaret; for the settlement of a strike; for a son for a barren woman; for Captain so-and-so, wounded and prisoner of war; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk; while the hiss of scythes in the thick June grass came faintly through the windows of the church; tremulously, by an old monk on the fiftieth anniversary of his vows; furtively, by an exiled bishop who had hewn timber all day in a prison camp near Murmansk; gorgeously, for the canonization of St. Joan of Arc – one could fill many pages with the reasons why men have done this, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unflinchingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this just to *make the plebs sancta Dei* – the holy common people of God.”