



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Catholic Conference 2010 Report

Voice & Meaning of Catholic Health Care in a Time of Uncertainty / Br. T. Maddox

Health care is and has always been a MAJOR ministry in the church. What makes a facility Catholic is that:

- 1) the facility values life serving all people regardless of race religion with dignity.
- 2) its Mission statement is the healing mission of Jesus. This is the work that is done and we speak in the cultural context about God
- 3) it cares for the whole body... mind, spirit and physical body
- 4) the human is seen and cared for from beginning of life to the end
- 5) Catholic health care is the very history and tradition of the church and still today remains the biggest providers. It is the ongoing legacy of the Church.

In secular society there is little room for the gospel as it impacts our values and our harsh society. In the secular care system there is a breakdown of unifying and moral consensus. As Catholic care gives we are committed to the common good. Although society as a whole is encouraged to divorce faith from life with more and more people having no contact with a Loving God. There is no speaking of God in the care & treatment of people but the focus is on what is perceived to be reality of care. The Jesus of the gospels was concerned for the poor faceless, marginalized and voiceless of society. This is what separates Catholic care. The willingness to touch the "outcast" and break down the taboos within religious and cultural tradition. A good example of this is Mother Theresa of Calcutta. She saw Jesus in all with whom she came in contact; be they Catholic, Muslim, Hindu, Jew or atheist. There is a willingness to respond to God's ongoing call to serve, even if it means suffering and misunderstanding. This is the healing mission of Jesus.

The key values of Catholic Care:

- 1: acknowledging the dignity of the person
- 2: interconnectedness of all life in solidarity of humanity
- 3: the common good of all
- 4: holistic care focusing on the body mind & soul of the person
- 5: preferential option for the poor

-report submitted by Pam DeL.