

National Association of Catholic Nurses – Canada

PLEASE NOTE NEW Email address: nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com

Website: nacncanada.weebly.com

Mailing Address:

NACN-Canada/ANIC-Canada

PO Box 19525, Manulife PO

Please direct membership application forms and fees to the mailing address.

President's Message

December 2018

Dear NACN-Canada members,

We are pleased to write this first newsletter of NACN-Canada at this joyful season of Christmas. Taking time to reflect during this sacred season, the extent of the work of the founding executive and you, our members, really hit home. The highlights of NACN-Canada events since the humble beginnings of the association and its launch 6 months ago are included in this newsletter. We are blessed with a first year filled with rich events through the blessings and support of Fr. Peter Turrone, our Chaplain, the Newman Centre, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, and the Archdiocese of Toronto.

While this year we have special cause to celebrate with joy, our work is far from done. Please consider inviting your colleagues, friends, and community to join NACN-Canada. Together, we have a terrific opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to make lives better through our faith and professional practice.

May Christmas inspire us to continue to support each other as we align our professional practice with our Catholic faith through participation in education, service, public discourse, and other initiatives that integrate faith and health care. I am very grateful to have you as members and continue to be receptive to your ideas as we move forward in the New Year.

Wishing you love, joy, and blessings this Christmas season and during 2019!



Freida Chavez, RN, MHSc, DNP, FAAN

President, NACN-Canada



In the spring of 2018, we named the organization and based our statutes on those of the Toronto Catholic Teachers' Guild and NACN-USA.

Our board expanded and held meetings on June 25, September 27, and November 5, 2018. Member-at-Large Louela Manankil-Rankin joined two of these meetings, as did Corresponding Secretary Yvonne Parent, who travelled from Victoria, BC in June and November.

April 29, 2018: L to R: Jody Macdonald, Recording Secretary; Freida Chavez, President; Helen McGee, President-Elect.

June 11, 2018: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins meets with members of the NACN-Canada board of directors. He names Fr. Peter Turrone as our Priest Chaplain, and offers his support for our application to become a national member of CICIAMS, the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistentes.



L to R: Dr. Freida Chavez, President; Rev. Peter Turrone, Priest Chaplain; Dr. Jody Macdonald, Recording Secretary; His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins; Helen McGee, President-Elect.

NACN-Canada launch event June 25, 2018 in Toronto

Approximately 30 nurses, students, and friends joined the first general members' meeting on June 25, 2018. NACN-Canada began with Fr. Peter Turrone celebrating Mass in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at the Newman Centre, Toronto. Following Mass, participants shared stories of moral distress in practice.

If you participated in a photo of the June 25 event after Fr. Turrone celebrated Mass, please contact us to provide or decline your consent to have your image published. We hope to distribute the photo in a future newsletter and post it on our website. People who decline consent or fail to contact us will have their faces obscured if the photo is published.



Dr. Freida Chavez attended CICIAMS’ twentieth world conference from September 4 to 7, 2018 in Malaysia. At this meeting, CICIAMS approved our application to become a national member.

We worked closely with NACN-USA’s leaders on our statutes, which we submitted to CICIAMS in mid-July, 2018, along with Cardinal Collins’ letter of support, the names of our board members, and the number of our members.

L to R: Mr. Donatus Akpan, Secretary General, CICIAMS; Dr. Freida Chavez, President, NACN-Canada, Geraldine McSweeney, International President, CICIAMS

The second general members’ meeting was held in Toronto on November 5, 2018. Members were invited to join us in adoration at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica on the afternoon before the meeting.

In the evening, members discussed Kristina Hodgetts’ testimony in the documentary “The Euthanasia Deception” and issues in their own practice.



The appeal of the Ontario conscience rights decision regarding the requirement for effective referral will be heard at the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto on January 21-22, 2019. This hearing is open to the public. For more information: <http://www.cmdscanada.org>

Conference Presentation

Yvonne Parent, NACN-Canada's Corresponding Secretary, made a presentation at the conference, "Reality check: Have you seen the patient?" hosted by the American Association of Medicine and the Person on November 4, 2018 in Newark, New Jersey.

She discussed her experiences caring for patients in an oncology ward in Victoria, BC, where patients' palliative care needs are increasingly in conflict with legalized euthanasia.

NACN-USA and NACN-Canada

During the conference, two NACN-Canada board members met two NACN-USA members, as well as four nurses from Montreal.

L to R:

Maria Arvonio, NACN-USA Northeast Director and CICIAMS UN NGO Delegate; Yvonne Parent, Corresponding Secretary, NACN-Canada; Dr. Patricia Sayers, NACN-USA and CICIAMS UN NGO Delegate; Helen McGee, President-Elect, NACN-Canada



The Toronto Catholic Doctors' Guild (TCDG) has invited us to join its retreats and events. In addition, we are invited to subscribe to TCDG podcasts, posted every second Saturday, that explore topics around spiritual life as well as concrete bioethical questions, conscience protection, and life within the Church. The Advent retreat was held at Merciful Redeemer Parish in Mississauga on December 1, 2018.

Fr. Eric Mah's talks from the Advent retreat are available on the podcast by searching iTunes for "Toronto Catholic" or "Toronto Catholic Physicians," or through this link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/toronto-catholic-physicians/id1446136461>

Fr. Mah can also be found at YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHA6SoifbA>

SAVE THE DATE:

NACN-Canada's annual general meeting will be held in Toronto between May 31 and June 2, 2019 during the conference of the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians and Societies. More information to follow.

NACN-Canada members and the Newman Centre

Help us meet our obligations as a sponsored group of the Newman Centre in Toronto. Members outside of Toronto benefit from our affiliation with Newman, because many of its events are posted online. When you send your 2019 membership form to NACN-Canada, please provide consent to share your name, email address, and **status as a student or non-student** to add to the Newman Centre's chaplaincy mailing list. Our membership form requests your written consent to receive communications directly from NACN-Canada, as well as from the Newman Centre. Our current membership list needs to be shared at the end of September and January of each year.

Next, we encourage you to attend and help us promote Newman Centre events, posted on the website www.newmantoronto.com. Please note that as members of a sponsored group, we are part of the Newman Center Catholic Mission. We are invited to attend daily and Sunday Masses and to become involved in liturgical ministries at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.



Several NACN-Canada members attended the Newman Centre Advent Retreat, with talks by Mother Miriam of the Lamb of God, on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018.

Mother Miriam's retreat talks are posted on YouTube:

Part 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_NczfKdfyI

Part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqvFr0vk2-U>

From our statutes, available on our website: NACN-Canada is established to support and strengthen the vocation of nurses and other health professionals within the apostolic tradition of the Catholic Church. It is a community that seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit through an ever-wider involvement of health professionals who wish to align their practice with Catholic teaching. It holds that Catholic nurses and other health professionals practice their professions as a vocation anchored in the Word, nourished through the sacraments, and in personal witness to Christ, bearing testimony to Him by their lives and professional practice. Our patron saint is St. John Paul II.

NACN-Canada invited members to attend 2018 events organized by like-minded organizations:

- Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute's "Hospice: more than just a place to die. A practical discussion on ways of providing hospice care in the community," October 1, 2018
www.ccbi-utoronto.ca
- Newman Centre, Toronto: Dr. Mary Eberstadt, "How the west really lost God." November 9, 2018
- Faithful to God's Design: Humanae Vitae at 50. Dr. Mary Eberstadt, Dr. Maria Wolfs, Steven Mosher and Fr. Raymond de Souza. November 10, 2018
- Catholic Women's League's Moira Ste. Marie Memorial Lecture, "Holistic health: The spiritual dimension." October 10, 2018

- Catholic Civil Rights League’s presentation by Kevin Dunn, director of the Euthanasia Deception and Fatal Flaws. December 12, 2018 [Catholic Civil Rights League](#)

To expand membership: The text below will be sent to the Archdiocese of Toronto for distribution.

National Association of Catholic Nurses-Canada (NACN-Canada)

NACN-Canada formed in 2018 to support Catholic nurses and other health professionals who experience moral distress in practice related to changes in Canadian healthcare. We joined CICIAMS, an international group of Catholic nurses with a voice at the United Nations. Our goal is to align our professional practice with our faith through prayer, education, service, and participation in public discourse. Request our membership application form at nacncanada.boardcontact@gmail.com and mail it with your annual fee to: NACN-Canada PO Box 19525, Manulife PO, 55 Bloor St. W., Toronto ON M4W 3T9. More about us at nacncanada.weebly.com

How you can get involved: Why not attend an early evening Mass and get together afterward with nurses and other health professionals that live or work near you? We will send your invitation to our members if you ask. If you already meet with colleagues to discuss issues that cause moral distress in practice and want to join NACN-Canada, send us a picture and/or description of your group or event for a future newsletter, or for our website. If you have the skills, help us develop our website!

To join NACN-Canada: Mail a cheque with the 2019 membership fee* and this form to:
NACN-Canada/ANIC-Canada
PO Box 19525, Manulife PO
55 Bloor St. W., Toronto ON M4W 3T9

Name _____

Membership type: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____

Province & Postal Code _____

(International) _____

Personal email _____

Cell phone _____

I agree to receive email/texts from NACN-Canada/ANIC-Canada

I agree to share my name, email address, and student status with www.newmantoronto.com

I have included payment

Signature _____

*See NACN-Canada pamphlet for fees

