Rediscovering the Art of Dying
presented by Sr. Nuala P. Kenny O.C., M.D., F.R.C.P.
April 12, 2018, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm (CST)
(1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET; 11:00 am – 12:30 pm MT; 10:00 am – 11:30 am PT)

Program Summary

The goals for this session are to provide lessons for disciples of Christ from the legalization of medically assisted death (MAD) in Canada and to propose challenges to the faith community in response. We will clarify the reasons persons request MAD, which is the medicalization of human suffering and death. As such, it is in contradiction to the tradition of a good death and of the Paschal Mystery itself. Catholics need to be clear about the reasons for requesting assisted death, our cultural and medical context and inherent threats to protection of conscience and to the most vulnerable among us. This is an urgent issue because the more common MAD becomes, the more likely even Catholics will accept it as the ‘new normal.’

Reflecting together on Jesus’ story and stories of patient, family and caregiver experience, we will identify specific clinical, ethical and pastoral challenges that arise in health decisions and care for the seriously ill and dying. Finally, we will address some challenges to disciples of Christ and the need for a robust parish ministry of care and companionship.

Program Objectives

- To identify lessons from the Canadian experience of challenges to a good death presented by medically assisted death (MAD)
- To recognize MAD as the medicalization of suffering and rejection of the Paschal Mystery
- To clarify some Church teaching on decision-making in health care
- To reflect on key issues including pain control, nutrition and hydration at end of life
- To review trajectories of dying, difficult death and responding to requests for MAD
- To propose a challenge to disciples of Christ to be agents of mercy and compassion in the ministry of care and companionship in our families and communities

About the presenter:

Sr. Nuala P. Kenny O.C., M.D., F.R.C.P. is a Sister of Charity as well as a pediatrician, medical educator and physician ethicist. She received her M.D. from Dalhousie University and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. She held a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Fellowship at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University. Among her many accolades, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for her contributions to child health and medical education, has received a Queen’s Jubilee Medal and seven honorary degrees. She is author
of hundreds of papers and three books: among them, What Good is Health Care? Reflections on the Canadian Experience (2002), Healing the Church (2012), and Rediscovering the Art of Dying (2018). She is presently Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University. She serves as Advisor to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for the Protection of Minors and Chair of the Archdiocese of Halifax Yarmouth Ministry of Care and Companionship Committee.

Registration:
To register online and pay by credit card, please click on this [LINK]. If you prefer to pay by check, please complete the form, below, and send it, along with your check made out to NACC to: National Association of Catholic Chaplains, 4915 S. Howell Avenue, Suite 501, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

If you have any questions please contact Andris Kursietis at the national office: akursietis@nacc.org.

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