

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

Some prolife updates..... The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican with the approval of Pope Francis issued last September 22 a document titled Samaritanus Bonus: On the Care of Persons in the Critical and Terminal Phases of Life. With regards to euthanasia or assisted suicide, the document quoted Pope Saint John Paul II saying, that it is “always the wrong choice because [it] is a grave violation of the Law of God, since it is the deliberate and morally unacceptable killing of a human person. This doctrine



is based upon the natural law and upon the written Word of God, is transmitted by the Church’s Tradition and taught by the ordinary and universal Magisterium.” The document then calls for pastoral accompaniment of those who expressly request euthanasia or assisted suicide. We should offer the help necessary for a person to shake off despair as a result of his/her illness. However, the document emphasized that we should not indulge “in spurious condescension.” It explained that closeness to a person who has chosen euthanasia or assisted suicide is necessary, but must always be ordered toward the person’s conversion. Therefore, a priest may withhold the sacraments – i.e., Penance, with absolution, and Anointing, with Viaticum – until the erroneous decision may be modified. This does not imply non-acceptance of the sick person, rather withholding the sacraments must be accompanied by a willingness to listen and to help, together with a deeper explanation of the nature of the sacrament, in order to provide the opportunity to desire and choose the sacrament up to the last moment..... This weekend is Winnipeg Life's Vision's annual Life Hike. The purposes of this event are

to raise public awareness on pro-life issues, and to raise funds to do more pro-life educational projects. Due to the current pandemic restrictions, there is no in-person event this year. However, there is a modified version open to the whole province of Manitoba. Everybody is invited to watch the online opening presentation on Friday, September 25 at 7 PM at bit.ly/lifehike20. In addition, you are encouraged to go for your own walk for life with your family and close friends in your home location on Saturday, September 26. Wear pro-life apparel or carry pro-life signs/banners that share the pro-life message. Participants are encouraged to take pictures and/or videos of their walk to then submit to lifesvision@shaw.ca by 4 PM on Saturday. These will then be compiled into a presentation that will be shown in the evening. Our parishes doing her share of raising public awareness of pro-life issues by putting up signs at the church yard..... October is Rosary Month! I exhort all families to pray the Rosary or at least pray to the Novena to Our Lady of the Rosary within the month. Copies of the novena are available on the table at the church foyer. Our Lady can help us in these distressing times. Besides, “the family that prays together, stays together,” says the Venerable Patrick Peyton.

