

PARISH NURSING INTEREST GROUP (PNIG) NEWSLETTER

PNIG Leaders Needed – Nominations Open

PNIG is in need of members to preside over the organization. The role of President and Vice President are now vacant. These roles are critical to keep PNIG moving forward. The candidate would ideally have a strong interest in continuing to support the professional role of Parish Nurses. Nominations are open and elections will take place at the AGM.

Here are the duties of the President of PNIG according to our current By-Laws:

Our Current By-Laws state:

9. Duties of Officers

- i. *The President shall*
 - a) Be a practicing parish nurse *see By-Law change proposal*.
 - b) Preside at all meetings of the P.N.I.G. and executive committee.
 - c) Attend or designate a member to attend the Assembly of Presidents.
 - d) Administer the affairs of the P.N.I.G.
 - e) Be responsible for the agenda, changes in the agenda, and new business for meetings.
 - f) Present an annual report at the annual membership meeting and upon request by the Association.
 - g) Develop and evaluate goals and objectives compatible with those of P.N.I.G. and R.N.A.O.
 - h) Work with the political process to achieve these goals.
 - i) Form liaisons with nursing and other organizations.

Based on the fact that this past year, the member who stepped up to act as President was not practicing as a PN, a change in By-Laws has been suggested. The By-Law changes being proposed will allow any trained PN to take the role of President, even if not currently employed as a PN. The proposed By-Law change is as follows:

At present the By-Law states:

The President shall: a) Be a practicing parish nurse.

Proposed changes to 9. i. a

The President shall

- a) be a trained/certified Parish Nurse with a minimum of one year of experience.

As would be for any proposed By-Law change, this proposed change will be discussed and vetted at the AGM. Please come prepared to discuss this change.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PNIG AGM & Education Day

Saturday, October 3rd, 2015

at

St James Cathedral, Toronto

Register Now!

Contact Lanadee Lampman

llampman@stjamescathedral.on.ca

by Sept 21, 2015

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Message from the Acting President

Challenging Times

The learning curve in the past year has been steep for me but I have learned so much! It may sound cliché but it's true! I appreciate the confidence that has been entrusted to me to represent PNIG at the RNAO level and to provide some leadership to the interest group. In the past year there have also been some challenging moments in the world of professional nursing as well as specifically in our Interest Group.

At the last PNIG AGM in October 2014, Shirley Christo, resigned her position and left a vacancy that was not fulfilled at the AGM. I stepped up temporarily, agreeing to do what I was able to do, until someone could be found to fill the full role of President. The things I am able to do have changed due to some personal health challenges since starting last fall. Despite the fact that no one has stepped up YET! to lead PNIG, I will be resigning as President as of the AGM. I have also been functioning as the Editor of the Newsletter and working closely with Shannon Pharoah, our Communications ENO to keep you informed of what's going on. I will continue to volunteer as Newsletter Editor for the next year.

Here is what has been accomplished since the last newsletter was distributed in spring.

RNAO 90th AGM

The RNAO offered two invitations to PNIG regarding the RNAO 90th AGM in April. We were invited to lead the grace at the formal 90th anniversary dinner on the Friday evening. As President of PNIG, I was honoured to prepare this and deliver. That has been one of the highlights of my term as President.

The other invitation that PNIG received was to participate in the panel discussion at the RNAO AGM. The panel was to focus on the Supreme Court decision on End-of-Life (EOL) and Physician-Assisted Dying. PNIG member Michelle O'Rourke, was the speaker at our 2014



Jeanne Lambert, Acting President

AGM and she spoke on the topic “*Dying with Dignity: Understanding the Role of Hospice Palliative Care*” that was held in Kingston. With this experience, it was easy to have confidence that Michelle could represent us on this panel. Michelle agreed and she prepared well, considering how little information was given up front from RNAO. Michelle spoke well to challenge the thinking that led to this decision. An overview of her talking points is on the next page.

Editorial Board

Earlier that morning after the AGM dinner, members of PNIG met for breakfast and discussed plans for group. Nearly 20 members were in attendance and a new initiative was born of that meeting: an Editorial Board to lead and guide the Editor of the newsletter! Two members have agreed to work together with Shannon Pharoah, the Communications and with me, the editor. Thank you to Joanne Jasper and Mary Lou DeTina for stepping up to help to keep us on track with our news!

CAPNM

Many of our members attended the national PN conference in Saskatchewan in June. The focus of Canadian Association of Parish Nursing Ministry (CAPNM) was Ethnic Diversity and those in attendance came away feeling uplifted by the speakers and fellowship. See article on pg. 4 for details about the CAPNM conference.

RNAO AGM End of Life Panel

RNAO PNIG was asked to have a representative sit on the End of Life (EOL) Panel at the 2015 AGM, which would address various aspects of the recent Supreme Court Decision to legalize assisted suicide, and prompt questions and discussion from the over 500 RNAO members and members of the public who were present.

– Report from Michelle O'Rourke

I was very honoured to be asked to represent PNIG, and although there had been months of consultation with other members and colleagues, I had developed speaking notes and responses to questions which did not surface or come to me. I am happy to share some of what I prepared with you.

As a representative of PNIG, I reflected on trying to portray the position we must view from a human person perspective, trying to address Christian principles but not using solely Christian language, since this topic affects everyone regardless of their faith tradition.

- It is important to look at this from a cultural perspective; that our culture for the most part views worth by being productive and independent. This has led to people (who are not independent or productive) feeling they are 'a burden' and their life is not worth living.
- Dying is the most human, most natural event, but we have medicalized it – it now is seen more as a failure of acute care medicine than a natural part of our human journey. We need to spend as much time and energy on the psychological, emotional and spiritual preparation for this journey, and encompass the notion 'Whole Person Care' which we see in palliative care. This calls for more than a medical response – it calls for a community response to recognize and address the different elements of suffering. *"Let us extinguish the suffering, not the sufferer"*.
- Only 16-30% of Canadians who need palliative care have access to it. It is ESSENTIAL that we address this, and give people the care and support they need and deserve so that they do not feel that medically-assisted dying is their only option. We are about to become a country that extends patients the right to die a hastened death, but have no legislated guarantee or assuredness that they will be given the care they deserve until they die!



Comments on the RNAO session

– From Joanne Jasper and Jeanne Lambert

The Supreme Court of Canada decision on February 6, 2015 to grant the right for individuals, in certain circumstances, to legally request physician assisted death (suicide), resulted in intense interest in the plenary session on the final day of the RNAO Annual Conference on April 18, 2015.

The room was filled to standing room only. The national newspapers were there to cover the panel discussion and many members of the public. The Parish Nurse Interest Group was well represented on the 6-person panel by Michelle O'Rourke. In the 3-minute time allotted to her, Michelle succinctly expressed our concerns about the implications of this decision for Parish Nurses from both our perspective as nurses as well as the spiritual connotations of putting this decision into legislation.

It was generally accepted by the parish nurses present that, much more could have been done to present a more effective panel discussion on this ground-breaking decision. The discussion was limited to an hour. Presenters were given their initial 3-minutes to state their position. This might have been adequate if the panelists had been told ahead of time what their time would be. The question period could have been better if the Moderator had ensured that the session focused on asking questions of the expert panel in an effort to give them an opportunity to elaborate on their viewpoints. Unfortunately, the time allotted was much too short to get into any depth of discussion about the issue and the question time was used up with emotionally-charged personal stories that made it difficult to address objectively.

Overall, it was a great opportunity to have different perspectives heard. PNIG was pleased to be invited. Kudos go to Michelle for taking this on and preparing so well. *Thank you, Michelle!*

CAPNM highlights

The CAPNM Conference: Saskatoon June 11-14, 2015

The 17th Annual Conference and AGM

Ethnic Diversity: Mirror of God's Creativity

As the conference materials so well stated, "...many have come to this conference to discover how ethnic diversity is a mirror of God's creativity. Some will have come to reconnect with friends from previous conferences. All will have come to be renewed, to be strengthened, to be challenged in their faith as they experience the creativity of God in ethnic diversity."

This was indeed a stimulating conference overlaid with casual Western friendliness.



There was a large delegation from Ontario.

Mark your Calendar: Next year's CAPNM Annual Conference will be June 2 to 5, 2016

at University of St. Michael's College, University of Toronto

Volunteers needed: If you are ready to volunteer to be on a committee to help organize the CAPNM conference next year, please contact one of the following parish nurses: Michelle O'Rourke, Elsie Millerd, Karen Watson, Judy Johnson or Joanne Jasper



PNIG Member in Pan-Am Games Torch Relay

On June 16, RNAO member Michelle O'Rourke took part in the CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Games Torch Relay Run, representing Chatham-Kent Hospice. It was a wonderful experience, and many family members, friends and colleagues from hospice came out to support her.



Michelle O'Rourke, centre, with torch, took part in the CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Games Torch Relay Run with enthusiastic fan support. Michelle is pictured with her daughter at left.

Feature Member

Faith Community Nursing in Sault Ste Marie!

– From Jeanne Lambert

The PNIG Breakfast at the RNAO AGM included welcoming members from across the province. One of the members was from Sault Ste Marie and she agreed to be interviewed for this edition of the news. Debbie DeVries graduated from Niagara College Nursing program and her experience has included Gerontology and Spinal Cord Rehab but currently she is working with the Salvation Army providing services in a Drop-In clinic, health teaching and answering the many questions that residents of the area bring with them. Debbie shared that many of the people who drop in do not access health care elsewhere and she feels blessed to be able to serve her community and have the freedom to bring her faith into health care. She enjoys being able to pray with people and encourage them to pursue their faith. One of the most challenging things is not being able to effectively follow through with people since the clinic is only open one day each week.

Though Debbie has not (yet) taken a formal Parish Nursing training course, the Major at the Salvation Army spoke at length with Debbie about her vision for reaching people in the community and the SA's vision of service and were able to develop a job description and a plan. Debbie draws on the nursing experience as well as her varied life experience in dealing with parenting, illness, separation & divorce, abuse, addictions and the stigma attached to living below the poverty line. In addition to that (probably most importantly) Debbie stated, "I have drawn on the Lord's ability to use imperfect vessels like me to bloom where I am planted".



Debbie DeVries of Sault Ste Marie

...feels blessed to be able to serve her community and have the freedom to bring her faith into health care.

Did you know that the Salvation Army was a leader in Parish Nursing in Canada? In 1998 - A conference call, organized by the Salvation Army and the Catholic Health Association of Canada, led to further meetings and organizing a network of parish nursing ministry supporters that was incorporated as CAPNM in 2001.



Parish Nurse Education Programs

Foundations in Faith Community Nursing Program

InterChurch Health Ministries (ICHM) based in Toronto:

Four Saturdays Program

Starts October 17th – November 7th

Emmanuel College, University of Toronto

The 2015 revised curriculum: *Foundations in Faith Community Nursing Curriculum* comes in colour coded, sectioned, bound book for Participants to read ahead and to make notes in the book.

Other educational opportunities:

Let's Talk Mental Illness: Opening the Doors on Discussion in Our Congregations

Saturday November 14th

Bloor Street United Church, Toronto

With:

- Rev. Dr. J. Eileen Scully, Director of Faith, Worship and Ministry, The Anglican Church of Canada
- Rev. Canon Kevin George, Rector, St Aiden's Anglican Church, London ON
- Mr. Patrick Ferguson RN, Parish Nursing Ministry, St Aiden's Anglican Church, London ON
- Consumer, Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Office

Interactive Webinars for Parish Nurses and Health Cabinets

November 17th and 24th 2015 – Dates are confirmed;
topics to follow

All you need is a computer and a telephone.

For more information on the above programs visit: www.ichm.ca

To register contact: joanne.ichm@outlook.com

Like us on Facebook: http://bit.ly/ICHM_CANADA

Foundations in Parish Nursing Program

Institute for Ongoing Foundation,
St. Peter's Seminary, London, ON:

Summer Week-long Residency and Foundations Plus – July 2016

On-Line Course One:

The Parish Nurse as Counsellor and Spiritual Companion

Five Week Course consists of the following topics:

Dates for Course One: Cycle 7 – Oct. 25th to Nov. 28th, 2015

Week One: Pastoral Care / Spiritual Care Giving

Week Two: Counselling in Parish Nurse Ministry

Week Three: Grief, Loss and Suffering

Week Four: Mental Health and the Parish Nurse

Week Five: Wholistic Health Promotion: The Parish Nurse as Facilitator of Wellness

**Registration opens September 9th and closes
October 21st, 2015**

On-Line Course Two:

The Parish Nurse: Facilitating Wholistic Health Through The Lifespan

Five Week Course Consists of the following topics:

Dates for Course Two: Cycle 3 – TBA

Week One: Wholistic Health of Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults

Week Two: Wholistic Health of Middle and Older Adults

Week Three: Caring for Families in the Faith Community

Week Four: Impact and Management of Chronic Illness on Families

Week Five: End of Life Transitions

For more information on the above programs visit:

www.stpetersseminary.ca/Programs/Parish-Nursing/21

email: cleach4@uwo.ca

Political Action

Update on Supreme Court Decision and opportunity for input!

– Submitted by RNAO member, Michelle O'Rourke

On May 19th, I visited with the local MP, Dave VanKesteren to speak to him about what the federal government's plan were with regards to responding to the Supreme Court decision in February 2015 on the Carter case and the legalization of physician assisted suicide/euthanasia in Canada. The MP did not know at the time if the federal government was going to let the law just die, as was done with the abortion law, or if they were going to take any action to work towards a developing a new law. I reiterated to him that various stakeholders including RNAO, the CMA, the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) and many others were waiting for some action to call experts to the table to assist in developing the framework which would set parameters on this important legal development and also protect vulnerable Canadians as well as health care providers in exploring how things would work in this new reality. At that time, the federal government had taken no steps in trying to formulate a response to the supreme court challenge for a new law to be enacted by Feb. 2016.

Eventually, on July 17, five months after the Supreme Court decision, the federal government announced it was forming an External Panel on Options for a Legislative Response to Carter v. Canada. Their mandate was to meet with various stakeholders in this area as well as to allow the public to respond, so that some recommendations could be made to the government in how to proceed. Two weeks later the Conservatives called an election on August 2, which essentially put a halt to the stakeholder consultations until after the Oct. 19th election. Canadians will still have a chance to respond personally by visiting ep-ce.ca to voice their personal opinions or gain more information.

Resource Centre

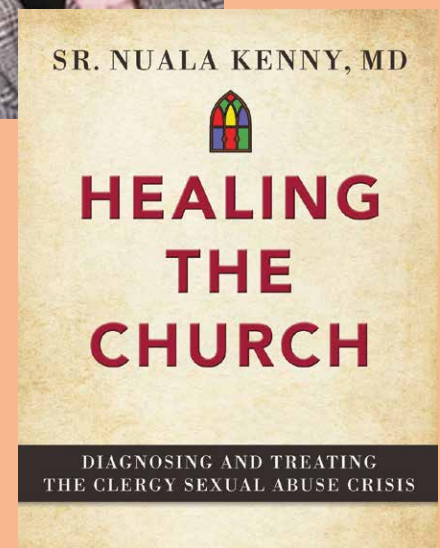
Healing the Church conference with Sr Nuala Kenny, MD.

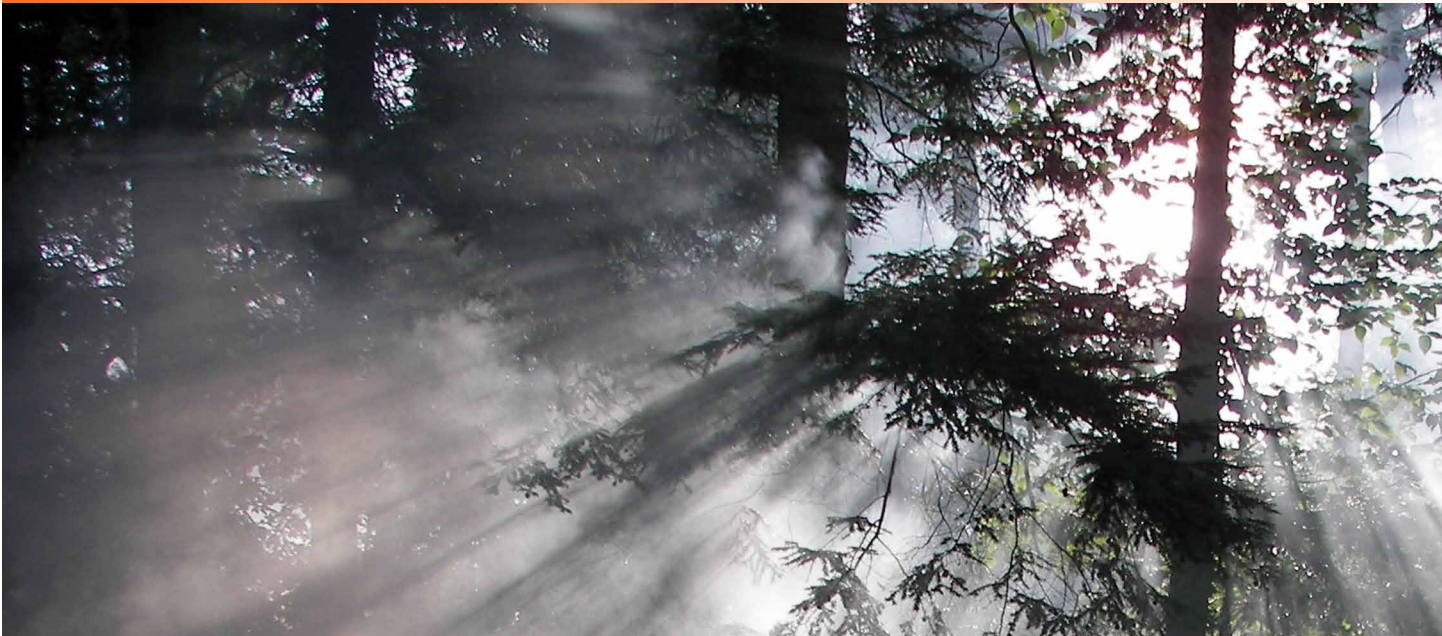
The Providence Spirituality Centre and the Sisters of Providence in Kingston ON hosted a conference with Sr Nuala Kenny, MD on the topic of *Healing the Church, Diagnosing and Treating the Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis*.

Sr Kenny is renowned for her expertise and many presentations on End-of-Life issues with her Bio-Ethics knowledge. In the past few years, she is feeling called to respond to the current crisis of Clergy Sexual Abuse in the RC church. Sr Kenny arranged the topic to follow the health assessment routine starting with getting the diagnosis correct, then finding the correct treatment. Her insight into the correct diagnosis included looking at Clericalism and how it plays into the problem and can be an obstacle to solutions. With her over-arching experience as a Religious Sister, the entire presentation was Christo-centric and hopeful. Sr Kenny is a gifted speaker and was able to help participants to see the need for healing at the level of the entire faith community. Her book, *Healing the Church*, is set up in workbook style and available from Novalis Press. There are many references to Sr. Kenny on the internet, including an interview on Salt and Light TV.



Sr Nuala Kenny, MD





For the Next Newsletter:

- **What is happening in your ministry?** Send us a picture from a recent event.
- **Want to introduce yourself to the membership?** Tell us why spiritual care matters to you.

Word limit: 200-250 words. Email this along with a photo of yourself to: communications@pnig.rnao.ca

Your PNIG Executive

PRESIDENT (ACTING): Jeanne Lambert
jmlambert@tdgraham.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT: *Position vacant*

SECRETARY AND TREASURER: Ola Babalola
divine_love25@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: Mary Lynch
marylynch@live.ca

COMMUNICATION EXECUTIVE NETWORK OFFICER (ENO): Shannon Pharoah

NEWSLETTER: Jeanne Lambert

POLICY/ POLITICAL ACTION OFFICER:
Carmen James-Henry
carmenjhenry@sympatico.ca

PAST PRESIDENT: Mary Lynch

Your PNIG MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Region 1 rep: Michelle O'Rourke
michelle@selahresources.ca

Region 2 rep: *Representative needed*

Region 3 rep: *Representative needed*

Region 4 rep: *Representative needed*

Region 5 rep: *Representative needed*

Region 6 rep: Gloria Wiebe
gwiebe@stjamescathedral.on.ca or gloriawiebe@sympatico.ca

Region 7 rep: Lanadee Lampman
lanadee@rogers.com

Region 8 rep: Mary Lynch/Ola Babalola

Region 9 rep: Mary Wyllie
akw@queensu.ca

Region 10 rep: Mary Shaw +CAPNM
mbshaw@rogers.com