

## National Catholic Health Care Week

Sunday, February 2 to Saturday, February 8, 2025.

This year, National Catholic Health Care Week reflects on our calling as a Catholic health community to care for each other and our common home. Through stories, reflections and prayer, the Week encourages us all to explore the connection between the health of our planet and the ability of all people to flourish and thrive.

## **Focus: Caring for our Common Home**

We are faced not with two separate crises, one environment and the other social, but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combatting poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature. Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

National Catholic Health Care Week seeks to build understanding and connection with our mission and contribution as a Catholic health community working with others to build a just and caring society where all are seen and heard.

This year, it falls on the week leading into The World Day of the Sick, February 11, a Catholic day of observance established by Pope John Paul II to encourage prayers and reflections for those who are ill and for those who care for them.

Our 2025 theme "Caring for our Common Home" celebrates the interconnectedness of all creation and helps us to reflect on how our individual and collective actions and our systems—health, social, economic—can promote a healthy world where all can thrive. It emphasizes the integral connection between human health and the health of the planet, echoing Pope Francis' call to care for the earth as our common home.

We work with many partners—in our Catholic community, our health system and beyond—to contribute to and help shape an ever-evolving health system, drawing on our Catholic values, and a legacy of innovation and ethical reflection. This week calls us to put the love at the heart of our ministry into action and inspires us to work towards environmental sustainability and human health and wellbeing in our homes, workplaces, communities and our world.

Many of our Catholic health organizations and communities have embraced the integrated ecology of Laudato Si' in their ministries through environmental stewardship and conservation and actions to promote human flourishing. During National Catholic Health Care Week, we invite all to reflect on and share the story of the courageous gift of our shared Catholic health mission.

## The Courageous Gift of Catholic Health Care

As Catholic health organizations across Canada, we are united in a 400-year healing mission and are inspired by a calling to care for all with compassion and humanity—body, mind and spirit. This week is an invitation to learn more about the role, value and impact of Catholic health care in Canada and to be vocal, informed supporters of Catholic health care and the healing ministry of Jesus in Canada. The Courageous Gift expresses the heart of our work, rooted in the Gospel and the legacy of our founding congregations.