

Finding Our Way Through the Pandemic

While on vacation a few years ago, my wife and three kids were driving between Regina and Moose Jaw. I had checked the gas tank before we left and I was sure there was enough gas in the tank to make it to our destination.

I also figured there were plenty of gas stations between these two cities but somehow, about 40 kms outside of Regina, my orange gas light came on warning us that the tank was low on fuel.

My wife and I joked with the kids in the back seat that we should all duck in our seats so as to create better aerodynamics. The kids knew we were joking and they humoured us.

This pandemic originally felt like a short trip. Some of us felt like it would be a few weeks. A few in the know explained that it could be months. Only a few—at least in the early days of March 2020—were planning for up to two years.

Most of us checked our emotional tanks and felt like we could handle a few months but the fourth wave and the Delta variant has challenged even the strongest of us.

Nurses who had signed up for a career in caring are finding it hard to make it through shifts. Care homes that were finally opening

up to visitors are facing challenging decisions about how to move forward prudently.

Meanwhile, across the province, people are shopping without masks, going to music concerts, outdoor festivals, rodeos and even taking in football games at Mosaic Stadium. Many do not want another lockdown.

While we are not out of gas emotionally, our orange light is on.

As an association, CHAS has not been immune. Financial issues from all sides, new Saskatchewan Health Authority restructuring, and pandemic restrictions have meant that much of our mandate was hampered. We could not gather, we could not go to the sites, and much energy had to be put towards daily pandemic safety measures.

We have discerned and surveyed for several months. Our board, along with the help of Brenda Fitzgerald, have come up with a plan to move forward that includes hiring a part-time Executive Director (job ad on back of newsletter), continuing with the convention, newsletters, Witness to Mission video preparation, the parish visiting campaign and the providing of ethics consultations to all institutional members across the province.

We have all struggled but we are all finding our way through this pandemic.





Are Catholic hospitals and care homes indistinguishable from their public partners?

What are the opportunities and challenges that arise when we embrace our Catholic identity?

Our keynote presenters will offer us potent ideas to help us discover how our day-to-day work can be enhanced when we understand better the legacy upon which we are building and the vision that drives our every human interaction.

OCTOBER 21-22, 2021
with talks at 10 AM and 2 PM daily

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As a thank you to all of our healthcare workers
registration is FREE!

To register, please go to www.chassk.ca and
click on the Events tab and Annual Convention

As an added bonus, all registrants will receive this
nifty eyeglass cleaning cloth with silicone grips!





October 21 @ 10 AM: Sr. Teresita Kambeitz

The Legacy of the Grey Nuns

How did a handful of courageous nuns ignite healthcare in Western Canada and how is their mission still relevant?



October 21 @ 2 PM: Megan Engel

Deus ex Scientia: How I Learned to Praise God with Lasers

This Rhodes Scholar's narrative on investigating the use of machine learning techniques in understanding biomolecular self-assembly. She will share on the intersection of God and science.



October 22 @ 10 AM: Gordon Self

Seeing and Embracing Mission as Journey

Mission requires opening our eyes to the needs around us, as well as embracing our own vulnerability to respond.



October 22 @ 2 PM: Michelle O'Rourke, RN

Caring for Ourselves When We Care for Others

Being a health care provider can be exhausting emotionally, physically and spiritually. The Pandemic has augmented these challenges exponentially, leaving staff at risk for issues such as burnout, fatigue and moral distress.



JOB POSTING

Part-Time Executive Director - Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan

The Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan (CHAS) is a faith-based, not-for-profit association committed to providing leadership, education, and resources for all who serve in the healing ministry of Christ in health care, parishes, and communities.

The Executive Director coordinates all CHAS activities consistent with the Association's vision and mission and the Board of Directors' policies; submits policy and program initiatives for Board approval; prepares the annual budget and oversees accounting procedures with assistance of bookkeeper and board treasurer; plans the Annual General Meeting and annual convention; serves as a resource for Catholic health facilities, plans seminars and workshops; travels as required.

Core Competencies

The successful applicant should have relevant post-secondary education and experience that demonstrate the following core competencies:

- knowledge of, and commitment to, the teachings of the Catholic Church and Health Ethics Guide 2012
- knowledge of Catholic health care ministry and its relationship to provincial health system
- strong communicator including writing, interpersonal, advocacy, and public relations skills
- some experience and training in administration and/or theology
- understanding and sensitivity to the pastoral and theological aspects of health care ministry
- working knowledge of financial administration
- proficient in Microsoft Office and Publisher
- ability to give educational presentations to large or small groups
- ability to work with and support committees

Salary commensurate with experience and education. Salary and benefits package included.

Please e-mail cover letter and resume **by October 4, 2021**, to: ethnamartin54@gmail.com. Applicants will receive a confirmation of reception of application but only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted a second time.

Start date: Negotiable