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The Catholic Health Association of Canada  
Statement on the March 20, 2004 Papal Address  
Regarding  
**LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT AND THE VEGETATIVE STATE**

On March 20, 2004, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II gave an address at an International Congress on the topic of life-sustaining treatment and the vegetative state. Because some members have raised questions about the interpretation and practical implications of the pope's statement, the CHAC, in consultation with Most Rev. James Wingle, the representative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) on the CHAC board of directors, is sending the following statement to members.

The CHAC will continue to monitor the discussion about the pope's statement, and will advise members of further developments that may affect patient care.

Richard M. Haughian  
President  
May 2004