



MaterCare International (Canada)

# Annual Report

## For the year 2019

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### Introduction

2019 was a year that focused on the Rome Conference as well as looking ahead to new projects. Included are the following;

1. 2019 Rome Conference Review (pg 2)
2. Events and Meetings (pg 4)
3. Communications Review (pg 5)
4. 2020 Potential Projects (pg 6)
5. Canada Revenue Agency Registered Charity Information Return (pg 7)

#### 2019 at a glance...



*We reviewed proposal projects in Uganda and Rwanda.*



*We hosted our 10th Biennial Rome Conference.*



*Dr. Walley presented at Poland's International Congress.*

## 1. 2019 Rome Conference

This year MaterCare International hosted its 14th International Conference, the 10th Biennial Conference in Rome. The theme was, “Catholic Healthcare: Will it Wither or Whither can it go?”.

- The conference included 30 speakers and over 100 registrants from 16 countries, most of whom are practicing Catholic physicians.
- As part of the conference, MaterCare hosted a sponsored symposium on euthanasia with the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.
- On the 3rd day of the conference, MaterCare hosted a news conference and delivered a press release found here:  
[https://01e7c503-fb51-4f98-b8e5-d2d9bbf4f67f.filesusr.com/ugd/ca1501\\_69fe32d1f6e84623ae6f40f34f456386.pdf](https://01e7c503-fb51-4f98-b8e5-d2d9bbf4f67f.filesusr.com/ugd/ca1501_69fe32d1f6e84623ae6f40f34f456386.pdf)
- Proceeding the 2019 Rome conference, a discussion took place among the participants, a statement was drafted and outlined the following;
  - 1. VOCATION: Society as a whole, medical personnel, and the Church, must recognize that the practice of medicine is a vocation. If medicine is not approached as a vocation, the consequences can be devastating. In her keynote address, Sr. Dr. Maria Pilar Nunez Cubrero stated, “Medicine is a place where money and prestige are to be had. It is an attractive place to seek self-gain, but it is an especially dangerous profession in which to do so because of repercussions of inappropriate care which can devastate the vulnerable people served.” Therefore, medical professionals and students who are not vocationally minded need assistance in deepening their commitment to serve. Medicine as a vocation must be reinstated and reinforced throughout training for patients to be respected in their full dignity as human persons. The importance of critical thinking in discerning and living one’s medical vocation cannot be overemphasized.

- 2. SUPPORT: Catholic medical professionals require the support of Church leaders in their communities. We strongly suggest a Health Bishop be assigned to every Conference of Bishops and that a priest be assigned in every diocese for the evangelization of healthcare professionals. Too often, Catholic medical professionals feel isolated from their communities. Faced daily with increasing ethical and moral challenges to their faith, medical personnel are especially vulnerable to the process of gradualism which threatens to erode the level of care and compassion they are able to provide, as well as their own personal faith and commitment. In particular, the organization of White Masses, a tradition begun by the Catholic Medical Association in the 1930s on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes the World Day of the Sick, should occur annually in every diocese for doctors, nurses, midwives, medical students and residents. We encourage all Bishops to offer an annual White Mass to show support for all health care professionals, and to offer pastoral care through an annual “date with the doctors”.
- 3. COMMUNITY: The future of Catholic healthcare relies on the strength of the community of Catholic healthcare professionals, beginning with students and residents. Medical students face unique obstacles to their faith in the practice and study of medicine. They are discriminated against and isolated from their peers. Their work is not considered legitimate if it upholds the teachings of the Catholic Church. We must offer students a space for community and support to dialogue with their peers as well as senior medical personnel and clergy. The future of Catholic healthcare depends on our ability to support and nurture the next generation of doctors, nurses and midwives. Important aspects to this include the listing of Catholic-friendly mentors and training programmes in each country, local Catholic Medical Associations offering ‘boot camp’ for medical students and junior doctors, and collaborating with other prolife

organizations, especially those promoting Fertility Awareness Based Methods. One suggestion is for Catholic doctors to wear a small visible crucifix on their shirt. If patients enquire about it, one can respond with, “I am a Catholic doctor, and caring for you is important to me.” (The full statement is available at:

[https://01e7c503-fb51-4f98-b8e5-d2d9bbf4f67f.filesusr.com/ugd/ca1501\\_0d011da76d2643658fa449626968a5fc.docx?dn=Rome%20Statement-%20OCT%208th%202019.docx](https://01e7c503-fb51-4f98-b8e5-d2d9bbf4f67f.filesusr.com/ugd/ca1501_0d011da76d2643658fa449626968a5fc.docx?dn=Rome%20Statement-%20OCT%208th%202019.docx))

- The website for the 2019 Rome Conference can be found at:

<https://www.matercare.org/2019-rome-conference>



## 2. Events and Meetings

- MCI 2019 Board Meetings took place on: Jan 17, April 30, Aug 27 and Nov 27

- Dr. Walley was invited and traveled to Poland to present a keynote address during the International Congress, “Science in the Service of Life”, held in Rzeszów, Poland. The congress was organized by the Yes for Life Foundation and the regional council in cooperation with MCI. This foundation is the successor of the MaterCare Poland foundation.  
<https://www.matercare.org/post/the-value-of-motherhood-dr-robert-walley>
- Dr. Robert Walley (MaterCare International) and Dr. Bogdan Chazan (MaterCare Poland) were invited to and attended the Vatican Forum of Catholic NGOs Plenary Meeting from December 5-7, 2019. <https://foruminternational.org/>
- Project Manager Simon Walley, Executive Director Robert Walley, and Communications Director Jennifer Derwey Deane traveled to Rome in September 2019 to organize, host, promote and attend MCI’s conference.  
<https://www.matercare.org/2019-rome-conference>

### **3. Communications Review**

MCI’s 2019 communications focused on engaging our support base, promoting the 2019 Rome Conference, and fundraising for new potential projects.

#### **eNewsletter: Mothers Matter**

- We currently have 724 subscribers to our monthly newsletter
- Archives are available at: <https://www.matercare.org/newsletters>

#### **Website Updates:**

##### [MaterCare.org](https://www.matercare.org)

- A new website was built at [www.MaterCare.org](https://www.MaterCare.org) to incorporate all media, news and publications in a more contemporary format.
- The new site now also hosts space for MaterCare USA.

- A compilation of Father Taylor's homilies by year was created and can be found archived on the new website.

### **Summary:**

MaterCare has opened new media accounts (Instagram and Google MyBusiness) and revitalized the website (MaterCare.org) to better communicate with our supporters and to provide information in a more coherent and accessible way.

The media site (MaterCareMedia.org) was dissolved as it was no longer necessary after the new site at MaterCare.org was built, which incorporated the features and options of the media site. Revitalization of the primary website is anticipated again in several years.

We look forward to utilizing these tools to better serve our community of supporters, sponsors, partners, patients, colleagues and volunteers.

### **4. 2020 Potential Projects**

As part of GivingTuesday (a campaign run through CanadaHelps), MaterCare raised over \$5,000 for travel costs and needs assessment of potential maternal health projects in Uganda and Rwanda. The campaign can be found at: <https://givingtuesday.ca/partners/matercare-international>

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births per year. According to World Health Organization 2017 reports, the MMR in Rwanda is 184 to 387 deaths per 100,000 live births, Uganda's ratio has consistently been high at 278 to 523 deaths per 100,000 live births. These rates increase in rural areas without access to obstetrical care. To put this in perspective, the Canadian ratio is 10 deaths per 100,000.

MaterCare International has run projects across the world, including projects in Kenya presently and Haiti, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste. New opportunities to partner in Uganda and Rwanda for potential projects are currently under review.

On September 19, 2019, MaterCare executives met with sisters who work in Uganda and Rwanda to discuss potential projects working from our initial comprehensive rural maternal health project established in Isiolo, Kenya.

The needs assessment travel dates are tentatively scheduled for February of 2020.

## **5. Canada Revenue Agency Registered Charity Information Return**

You will find all previous MaterCare International returns as filed with the Canada Revenue Agency here:

<https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/hacc/srch/pub/dsplyRprtngPrd?q.srchNm=matercare+international&q.stts=0007&selectedCharityBn=874266943RR0001&dsrdPg=1>

### **MATERCARE INTERNATIONAL (CANADA) INCORPORATED**

Business/Registration number:874266943 RR 0001

Charity status:Registered

Effective date of status:1998-01-01

*Submitted on January 14, 2020*