



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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Tue, Aug 5, 2025 at 2:05 PM



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER



The Moral Mind, by Dr. Joseph Meaney

The Wrongs of Altruistic Surrogacy

Gestational surrogacy involves conceiving a child by *in vitro fertilization* (IVF) or artificial insemination and then transferring the embryo to the uterus of a woman (termed the surrogate) who is not intended to raise the child. After the child is born, the surrogate gives the baby to the person or persons who initiated the surrogacy agreement as a legal adoption. Surrogacy is divided into two main types, commercial and altruistic. In the former, the surrogate

mother, sometimes referred to by the awkward euphemisms “gestational carrier” or “host,” is paid for the time and inconvenience of nine months of pregnancy and delivery, and generally there are profit-making individuals and organizations like lawyers and agencies who handle the contracts and arrangements. Altruistic surrogacy, on the other hand, is supposed to be a generous act with no payment to the woman except to cover pregnancy and legal expenses.

Announcements

NCBC and Colleague Agencies Support President Trump’s Executive Order Protecting Minors from Mutilating Trans-gendering Procedures

The NCBC filed amicus briefs in two U.S. Federal Courts of Appeal in support of protections established by President Trump for children with gender dysphoria. The executive order preventing such mutilating interventions has been appealed. The appeals are before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (*Pflag v. Trump*), and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (*Washington v. Trump*).

Position Open at the NCBC

The National Catholic Bioethics Center is hiring! We are seeking a Managing Editor who will supervise projects in the Department of Publications. This is an onsite position in Broomall, PA (outside of Philadelphia). Would you or someone you know like to apply? If you would like to receive the job description when it is ready, email efurton@ncbcenter.org with the subject line “Managing Editor.”

NCBC in the News

Department of Health and Human Services Says It Will Reform Human Organ Procurement System

EWTN News Nightly

After investigating human organ procurement records, 28 patients showed signs of still being alive at the time of organ harvesting, close to thirty percent of cases investigated, Dr. Joseph Meaney comments.

HHS Investigation Exposes ‘Horrific’ Ethical Failures in Organ Transplant System

National Catholic Register

Dr. Joseph Meaney and Father Tad Pacholczyk comment on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reforms that have begun of the nation’s organ transplant system after ethical and safety violations were found. They discuss the concerns around determining circulatory death and brain death, as well as the need for transparent and independent review of organ procurement organization procedures and protocols.

Father Tad Addresses the Pro-life Boot Camp at University of Dallas

Ablaze for Life

Father Tad Pacholczyk spoke to a group of high school youth and adults at the Ablaze for Life Pro-life Boot Camp held at the University of Dallas on July 21st. After offering Mass for the community, he addressed two broad themes, in the form of two talks. One was entitled: *Understanding Assisted Reproduction: Why Is IVF Wrong?* and the second was: *Two Pharmaceuticals with Interconnected Ethical Issues: The Bioethics of the Abortion Pill and the Morning-After Pill*. A Q & A session allowed for extended and energetic discussion with the audience following each of the presentations.

Experts: Church Must Better Educate Catholics about IVF Moral Objections, Alternatives

Our Sunday Visitor

In vitro fertilization is a topic that received significant national attention during the past election season as candidates made it a policy issue. A costly, but widely accepted option in society for conceiving children through artificial means, IVF also involves significant moral and ethical concerns.

Bizarre Surrogacy Case Pinpoints Moral Morass of the Baby-Brokering Business

National Catholic Register

When Pope Francis called surrogate motherhood a **deplorable practice** that he hoped the international community would prohibit universally, he was roundly **criticized** as insensitive and out of touch.

But a recent case in which **21 children, including 17 toddlers**, were taken from a California couple who had them through their surrogacy business has revealed some of the practice's inherent problems and potential for abuse, bolstering the arguments of those who believe it should be banned.

Children's Hospitals Nationally End Transgender Surgeries on Minors amid Trump Rules

Catholic News Agency

Several children's hospitals across the country that have performed transgender surgeries on minors are halting the procedures in response to President Donald Trump's executive actions and his administration's regulatory changes.



Can 1 Million Frozen Embryos Be Placed for Adoption?

The Catholic Weekly

Katie McMahon and her husband once turned to in vitro fertilization, or IVF, to conceive—but years later, they faced a heartbreaking decision: what to do with their four frozen embryos.

Registration Open for The NCBC's Online Certification Program!

Classes begin August 25, 2025



Radio and Podcasts

Organ Donation, Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

The Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo

Father Tad Pacholczyk joins Teresa to discuss the expanding practices of euthanasia and assisted suicide in Canada, the importance of protecting those with mental illness, and the pressure from increasing medical costs to promote so-called medical aid in dying.

Pre-screening Your Embryos with the Assistance of Emerging Companies Such as Orchid Technologies

LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio

Todd, Ellen and Father Tad discuss the many concerns that arise when the IVF industry partners with other new and expanding industries focused on offering genetic screening and polygenic risk assessments for embryos created in glassware during the IVF process. They discuss how a new “consumer eugenics” is galloping ahead of the ethics, much as happened with IVF itself. What kinds of steps would be required to bring the industry to the point of recognizing the grave wrongs being committed by businesses and their customers? What are the implications surrounding our human sexuality, especially when it comes to the sacred task of handing on the gift of human life?

Television and Videos



HHS & Organ Donation System

The World Over with Raymond Arroyo on EWTN/YouTube

Father Tad Pacholczyk and Raymond Arroyo discuss the sweeping overhaul being promoted by HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to improve accountability throughout the organ donation system. They look at some of the pressures surrounding organ procurement, and the concerns that arise when lapses in protocols occur, as well as the need for strict safeguards and oversight to encourage the generous act of organ donation and to assure potential organ donors that they can “trust the system.”



**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC
BIOETHICS CENTER**

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**CATHOLIC
HEALTH CARE ETHICS**

AUGUST 8 & 9, 2025

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OF
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What We Are Following

This section contains links to external sites. We are not responsible for their content.

Organ-Specific Harms from the COVID Vaccines and Ingredients

Dr. Colleen Huber:

I wrote the most thoroughly researched book to date on the mechanisms of harms to multiple bodily organs and systems

following the COVID vaccines, especially the mRNA vaccines. That is in its 3rd edition, *Neither Safe Nor Effective: The Evidence Against the COVID Vaccines*, in which I cite over 1,000 studies from the peer-reviewed published medical literature.

St John Henry Newman Set to Become Newest Doctor of the Church

Vatican News

One of the great modern thinkers of Christianity, a key figure in a spiritual and human journey that left a profound mark on the Church and 19th-century ecumenism, and the author of writings that show how living the faith is a daily “heart-to-heart” dialogue with Christ. A life spent with energy and passion for the Gospel—culminating in his canonization in 2019—that will soon lead to the English cardinal John Henry Newman being proclaimed a Doctor of the Church.

Living in the Real: A Short Primer on the Risks of Marijuana Usage

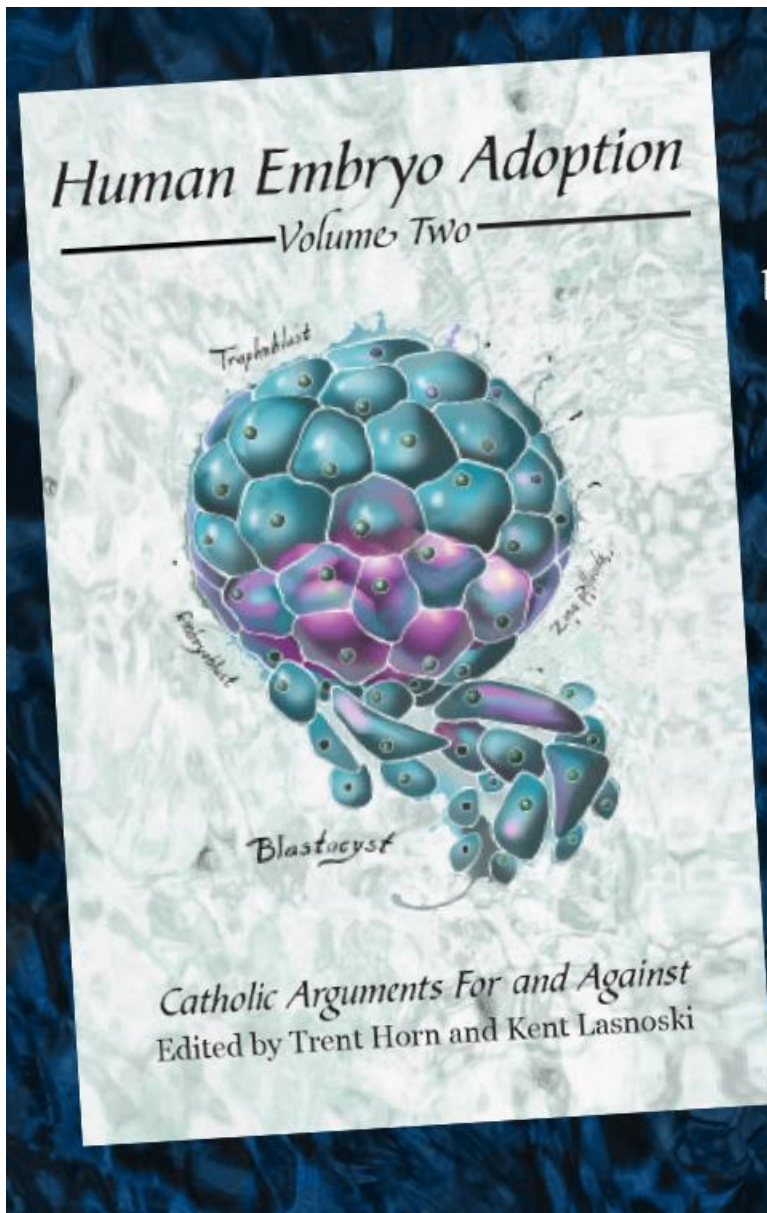
Catholic Bishops of Minnesota

We, the Catholic bishops of Minnesota, offer this pastoral guidance to prevent more of our brothers and sisters from falling into the trap of the misuse of drugs for recreational and other immoral purposes.

Catholics Are Becoming the New Mainline

Jacob Adams for the Daily Signal:

On my way back from Mass recently, I **walked past Alex Padilla**, the uber left-wing California senator, coming out of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill. The incident was just the latest reminder for me that the Catholic Church is increasingly functioning as the new mainline church in American politics where left, right, and center gather to receive Christ. St. Joseph's is located about a block away from the conservative **Heritage Foundation**, and a friend of mine has spotted the leader of the centrist Make America Healthy Again movement, **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**, at the parish as well.



Human Embryo Adoption
—Volume Two—

“The first academic book to systematically investigate the new argumentative strategies proposed since the 2008 promulgation of *Dignitas personae*.”



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