



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER



The Moral Mind, by Dr. Joseph Meaney

Finding Better Solutions for Ectopic Pregnancies

A classic application of the **Principle of Double Effect** is the tragic case where a mother has an ectopic pregnancy, and her life is threatened by the implantation and growth of her embryo in one of her fallopian tubes. Modern medicine has yet to find a solution that enables the baby to survive. Some interventions involve directly killing the embryo. These fall into the category of a direct abortion and cannot be done ethically.

Bioethics Public Policy Report

September 3, 2025

The Bioethics Public Policy Report is the NCBC's biweekly update on developments in bioethics and health care that impact the dignity of the human person. The report addresses issues on the federal, state, and international levels.

Announcements

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) is **hiring** an Executive Director of Operations & Finance!

This senior leader will partner with the president and executive leadership team to promote the mission of the NCBC through excellence in operational and financial practices, steering the development and implementation of policies, processes, and systems that will strengthen infrastructure and enable sustainable growth. This person will play a key role in fostering a strong and unified mission-driven work environment through relationship building and cross-departmental collaboration. If you know someone who would be interested in working with the NCBC team at our office in Broomall, PA, please have them check out this job posting!



Position Open

***NCBC Executive Director
of Operations & Finance***



**THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC
BIOETHICS CENTER**

Court Rules in Support of Physician Assistant Who Refused to Cooperate in a False Gender Identity

First Liberty Institute and the law firm Clement & Murphy PLLC announced today that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled in favor of Valerie Kloosterman, a physician assistant who was fired from her job for her religious beliefs. You can read the decision [here](#). NCBC and colleague agencies **filed an amicus brief** in support of Physician Assistant Valerie Kloosterman.

Re: Proposed Rule - Department of Veterans Affairs, 38 CFR Part 17. RIN 2900-AS31

On behalf of The National Catholic Bioethics Center, The Catholic Medical Association, The National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA, and The National Catholic Partnership on Disability, we write to support your Proposal to reinstate the full exclusion on abortions and abortion counseling from the Veterans Administration (VA) medical benefits package, which was removed in 2022. We also support the reinstatement of the exclusions on abortion and abortion counseling for Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) that were removed in 2022, and the removal of the unnecessary exclusion which would allow an exception for protecting the life of the mother. As we will **indicate**, abortion does not represent a necessary “treatment” to save the life of the mother.

NCBC in the News



Father Tad Teaches Bioethics Class for Transitional Deacons in St. Louis

Kenrick Glennon Seminary

Father Tad Pacholczyk began a new semester instructing students at Kenrick Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He is team-teaching the bioethics class with Fr. Donald Henke, Associate Professor of Moral Theology and Bioethics Formation Advisor. This is Father Tad's eighth year of teaching at the Seminary. Students in the class represent the following dioceses: Bismarck, ND; San Angelo, TX; Wichita, KS; Lafayette, IN; St. Louis, MO; Kansas City, KS.

Playing God with Bacteria, Yeast and Evolution

ConservativeHQ

George Raisley discusses projects to create artificial life, referencing comments by Father Tad Pacholczyk on some of the potential benefits of such research, and some of the ethical risks that can arise when it comes to pursuing such projects. Fr. Tad also notes that living systems are marked by a very high degree of complexity and scientists may be biting off more than they can chew when they make ambitious claims that they will be able to create artificial life systems in the span of five to ten years.

A Gift, but with an Expiration Date

Rhode Island Catholic

In this article by Father Tad, he looks at the bewildering experience of receiving an adverse or terminal diagnosis. He notes how as we age and start to feel poorly, and especially when we struggle with serious or life-threatening illnesses, it can seem that our bodily health is the highest good there is, almost an “absolute” good. Declining health can trigger feelings of sadness and depression as we sense our life slipping through our fingers, and sometimes can lead to dark temptations like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia. He notes the importance of recognizing that the afflictions we struggle against can lead us actively to surrender and accept where we are, even as we turn to the One who sees all things and knows the specifics of our situation better than we do.

Chinese Ambassador Slams President Trump’s Pro-Life Policies at UN

LifeNews

During a recent UN meeting, China’s ambassador accused the Trump administration of undermining women’s health by withdrawing financial support from UNFPA, an agency long criticized by pro-life advocates for its ties to China’s population control programs. Father Tad Pacholczyk observes how US-backed family planning programs have too often been active forms of “pro-abortion and anti-family imperialism,” and he argues that foreign governments should independently handle such initiatives without any US involvement.

Catholic Scholars Urge Caution as Trump Considers Rescheduling Marijuana

Catholic News Agency

Moral and legal scholars who spoke with CNA recently expressed concern about President Donald Trump’s announcement that he might loosen federal restrictions on marijuana. Father Tad

Pacholczyk expressed concerns about rescheduling marijuana, telling CNA that keeping it as a Schedule I drug has “sent a much-needed message to Americans and drawn a kind of moral line for many years.” He noted that “Adults who smoked marijuana regularly during adolescence have decreased neural connectivity (abnormal brain development and fewer fibers) in specific brain regions,” and that loosening restrictions will mean that drug users will regrettably take this as further opportunity to act unethically by seeking “to escape or otherwise suppress their lived conscious experience and instead pursue chemically-altered states of mind, or drug-induced pseudo-experiences.”

Catholic Answers to the Big Bioethics Questions

The Irish Catholic

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D. gives a wide-ranging interview to Pedro Esteva of the Irish Catholic on the rapid pace of technological expansion occurring in fields like assisted reproduction, human embryo research and genetic modification of humans, often without the benefit of careful ethical discernment on the part of scientists and researchers (requires subscription to *The Irish Catholic* for access).

Catholic Doctor Describes Her Journey to Practicing Faith and Medicine in Harmony

The Dialogue

Practicing medicine today with a Catholic worldview is no easy task. Carolyn Manhart, an internal medicine physician in Omaha, recently spoke with OSV News' Charles Camosy about how her faith came to inform her practice of medicine and why she has hope in the future of Catholic health care. Manhart serves as the medical student liaison on the board of the Fr. Edward J. Flanagan **Guild of the Catholic Medical Association**. She and her husband Nick have five children.

IVF Practitioners Work to Discredit Restorative Reproductive Medicine

Live Action

Fertility industry insiders who financially profit from IVF are working to discredit Restorative Reproductive Medicine (RRM), the natural approach to infertility, painting RRM as “an approach long confined to the medical fringe.” Advocates of Restorative Reproductive Medicine, a natural approach to infertility, met with White House aides regarding legislation dubbed the “RESTORE Act.”

Radio and Podcasts

Responding to a Terminal Diagnosis

LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio

Father Tad discusses with hosts Todd and Ellen the kinds of reactions and shock that can accompany a terminal diagnosis. They consider how many in our society may decide they would like to jump for the option of suicide, with the assistance of their physician, in such situations. They also discuss how the acceptance of our situation of medical frailty and weakness, with all its ups and downs, helps us begin preparing for our earthly end, death itself, prompting us to take up core questions about life's meaning, the survival of the soul, life after death and even the resurrection of the body.

The Church's Guidance on Dying Well

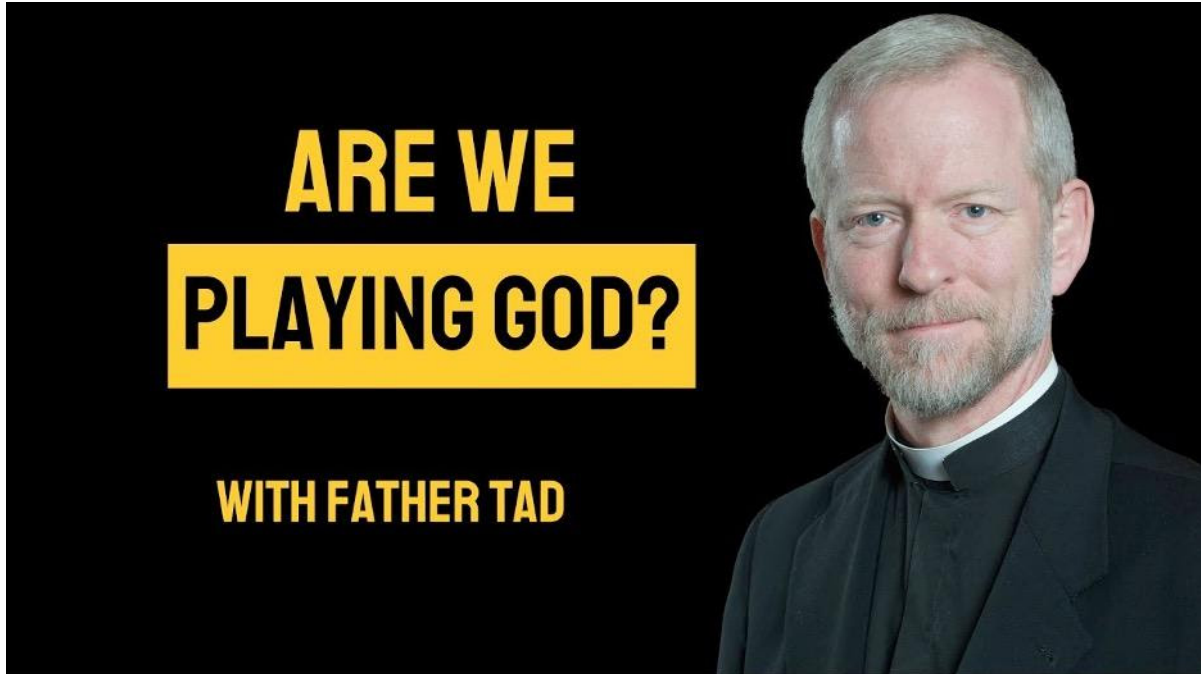
Catholic Views, Diocese of Sioux Falls

We all will die someday. We should plan to die well, and to help others die well, especially when we may have been selected to help make decisions for a loved one when they can't. Fr. Tad Pacholczyk talks with Renae Kranz, bringing the ethics of the Catholic Church and his pastoral heart into these hard but essential conversations.

For more on this topic with Fr. Tad see his video mentioned during

the podcast, **“The Gift of Dying Well”** available at <https://vimeo.com/bioethicsvideos>.

Television and Videos



Episode #64: Father Tad on Moral Clarity in a Culture of Feelings

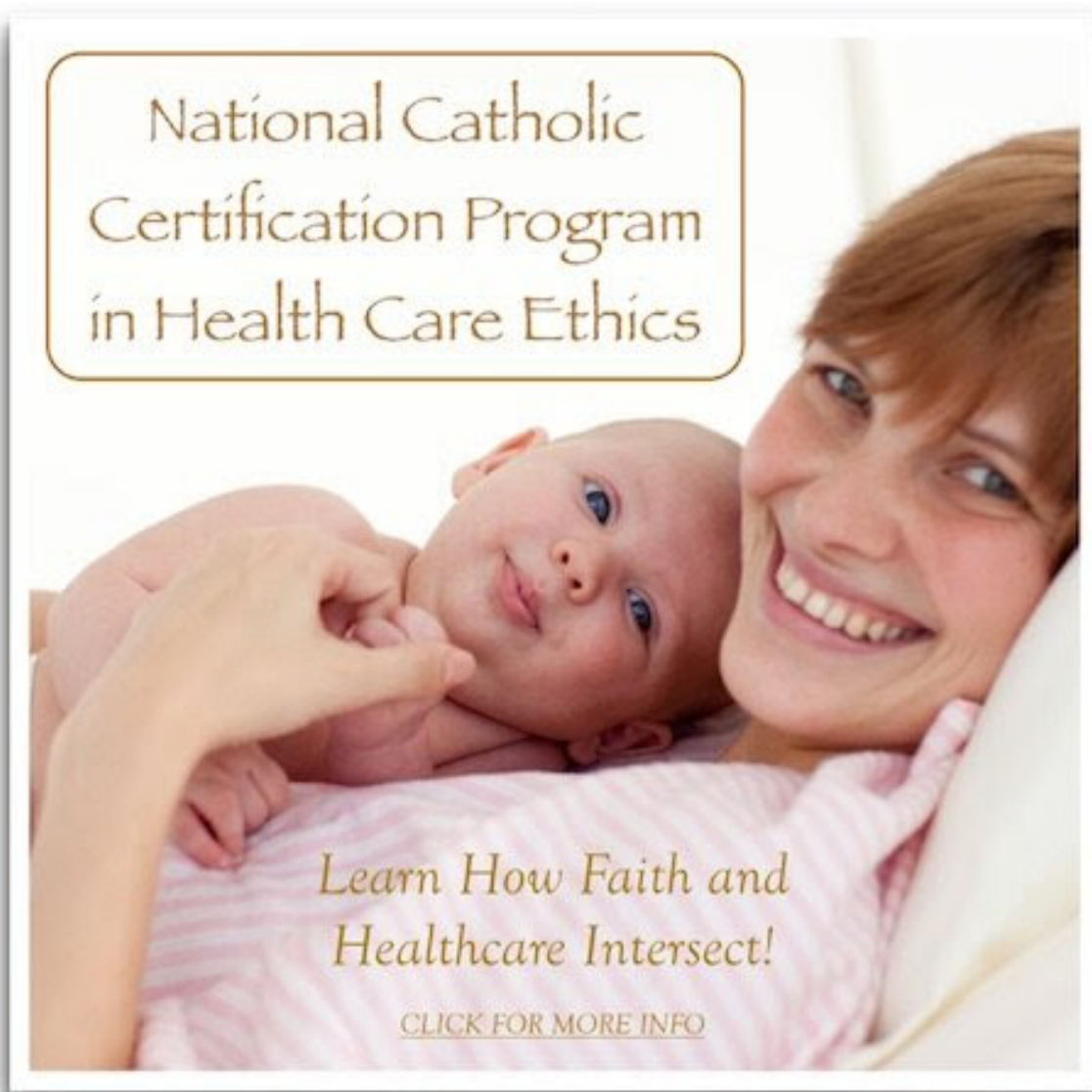
The Luella Jonk Show PodCast on YouTube

In this episode, Luella Jonk sits down with Father for an extended discussion. From his unique vantage point—having worked as a molecular biologist at Harvard Medical School before answering the call to priesthood, Father Tad brings both scientific rigor and spiritual wisdom to today’s most challenging ethical dilemmas. Today, we often make decisions under pressure, guided by what “feels right” rather than objective truth. Father Tad and Luella explore how this same relativistic thinking that damages our relationships is now reshaping how we approach life, death, and human dignity itself. Among the areas they consider: (1) Why three-parent babies and genetic screening represent a dangerous shift from receiving children as gifts to treating them as products; (2) The hidden moral costs of IVF that most Catholics never learn

about—and why natural fertility approaches offer hope without compromise; (3) How our fear of suffering is driving us toward medical assistance in dying (MAID) and what we lose when we shortcut the grace found in life's final journey; and (4) Why moral relativism—the idea that “it’s all up to me to determine right from wrong”—creates chaos in our personal and professional lives.

Registration Open for The NCBC’s Online Certification Program!

Classes begin August 25, 2025



What We Are Following

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

Naomi Epps Best's Story Exposes the Ideological Crisis in Counseling

Alliance Defending Freedom

What happens when a profession dedicated to helping people heal is overtaken by an ideology that distorts reality? What happens when future counselors are taught not how to serve their clients, but how to conform to political dogma? And what happens when students of faith are punished for refusing to violate their deeply held beliefs?

Pope Leo Appoints Fr. Ralph O'Donnell as Bishop of Jefferson City

Catholic Vote

Pope Leo XIV appointed Father Ralph Bernard O'Donnell, a pastor in the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, as the bishop of the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri, on August 19.

The Netherlands Already Allows Infant Euthanasia

National Review

Canada has jumped so enthusiastically into the euthanasia abyss that I have little doubt that infanticide will eventually be allowed there. It's only logical. If killing is an acceptable answer to suffering, why limit the killing to adults?

Appeals Court Halts Sale of Native American Religious Site Defended by Catholic Groups

CNA

A federally protected Arizona site that has been the location of Native American religious rituals for centuries is temporarily blocked from sale to a copper mining company as legal disputes over the transfer continue to play out in federal court.



CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ETHICS

A Manual for Practitioners

Third Edition

Edited by Edward J. Furton



New to the 3rd Edition:

John Brehany on the
*Ethical and Religious
Directives*

Matthew R. Kenny and
Daniel O'Brien on the
Function of
Ethics Committess

Elliott Louis Bedford on
Ethics Committees and
Policy Development

Becket Gremmels on
Clinical Ethics

Richard Fehring on
Natural Family
Planning

Stephen Hannan on
Challenges to the
Neurological Critia

Rev. Nicanor Pier
Giorgio Austriaco on
Biological Materials of
Illicit Origin

Rev. Kevin Fitzgerald on
Human Genome
Editing

Jozef Zalot on
Transgenderism and
Gender Dysphoria

and much more

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