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Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER



Biweekly Ethics Update



The Moral Mind, by Dr. Joseph Meaney

Bioethics in a Catholic Country: Malta

Catholic countries have a great advantage when it comes to bioethics and the law. They have a tradition rooted in the natural law, with direct consequences in many areas, including abortion and euthanasia. The island nation of Malta is unique in Europe as a country ruled by a religious entity, the Order of St. John, for centuries. It continues as one of the most Catholic places on earth. Unsurprisingly, they have largely maintained pro-life laws and a pro-family outlook despite the majority of nations in Europe accepting the culture of death's demand that abortion be permitted.

Their unique situation is reflected in the **Life Network**, an organization in Malta that conducts many pro-life activities, including running a maternity home, receiving government support to help pay the salaries of some employees despite the fact the current ruling party in some respects is very anti-life.

Bioethics Public Policy Report

September 16, 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

Last month, the NCBC welcomed Phil Tran and Veronica Mason as two new employees! Phil's role as Manager of Ethics Operations & Resources will be supported by Veronica's as Operations Specialist to steward the NCBC's free ethics consultation service, manage its Fellows & Interns Program, direct information technology, and ensure organizational integration and operational efficiency. After undergraduate studies in philosophy and theology at Saint Vincent College, Phil completed the National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics and an MS in bioethics at the University of Mary. He previously served as an NCBC Personal Consultations Intern for the last two and a half years. Veronica completed the National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics in 2019 and has worked with the Center as a Fellow for the last two years. Outside of the NCBC, she works as a consultant in healthcare operations, helping everyone from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies streamline their business processes.

Employment Division, Department of Human Resources of Oregon v. Smith: NCBC Supreme Court Brief

No doubt there is a line at which government can, and should, limit conduct even when a religious adherent vehemently objects. But that line cannot be drawn anywhere near *Smith's* “neutral and generally applicable” standard without neutering the Free Exercise Clause. Amici urge this Court to grant certiorari, overrule *Smith*, and revive the Free Exercise Clause.

NCBC in the News

Abortion Is Never Medically Necessary, “Even in an Emergency,” Experts Say

Catholic Review

Abortion — an act performed with the sole or primary intent of ending human life in the womb — is never medically necessary, according to medical doctors and Catholic experts on the issue.



Father Tad Speaks at White Mass

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, OK

Father Tad Pacholczyk joined Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City, OK, to concelebrate the White Mass for medical professionals on September 13th. He also presented a talk to members of the Catholic Medical Association along with other physicians, nurses and health care workers who gathered for a dinner afterwards. He spoke on the challenges of making ethically-sound decisions at the end of life, and the importance of working to assure that families and patients are supported in times of sickness and death.

A Gift with an Expiration Date

The Catholic Times

Father Tad discusses the bewildering experience of receiving a terminal diagnosis in this article. As we age and start to feel poorly, and especially when we struggle with serious or life-threatening illnesses, we appreciate in a new way the importance of our bodily health, even as we need to be careful not to turn it into an “absolute” good. He discusses the importance of recognizing how the afflictions we struggle against can lead us actively to surrender and accept our situation, even as we turn to the One who sees all things and knows the specifics of our situation better than we do.

Upcoming Events

The Bioethics of the Abortion Pill and the “Morning-After” Pill

St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church, Springfield, VA

Father Tad will present a talk on September 27th entitled: Two Pharmaceuticals with Interconnected Ethical Issues: The Bioethics of the Abortion Pill and the “Morning-After” Pill. He will discuss the mechanisms of action of these two drugs, and look at the question of whether it might ever be morally licit to utilize them in certain medical settings and situations. Father Tad has been invited to offer an annual lecture at St. Raymond’s each year, and this will

be his fourteenth year in a row of presenting at the parish. Mass is available at 9 AM, followed by the talk at 10 AM.

Television and Videos

Los Riesgos de la Inteligencia Artificial

Fox Noticias

El Dr. Joseph Meaney analiza los riesgos de la IA para los niños en español con Rachel Campos Duffy en Fox Noticias.

(Dr. Joseph Meaney discusses the risks of AI for children in Spanish with Rachel Campos Duffy on Fox Noticias.)

Debate Sparks over Florida's Move to End Vaccine Mandates

EWTN

Vaccines are sparking debate in Florida following an announcement from the state's Surgeon General, who said the Florida Department of Health is working to end all vaccine mandates in Florida law. This would include mandates for children attending public schools. Dr. John Brehany, Executive Vice President and Director of Institutional Relations at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, joins to provide more insight. He discusses the necessary baseline of vaccines needed to prevent a pandemic and weighs in on some of the newer vaccines currently mandated.

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.

Support Bill C-218. Oppose MAiD for Mental Illness

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

The following story was sent to the EPC “Story Contest” by a supporter to share her personal experience in support of Bill C-218,

a bill that would prevent euthanasia of people living with mental illness (as sole underlying medical condition).

Infertility: Science, Politics, Money, and Morality

American Thinker

Today, Tuesday, September 16, two physician groups with contrasting philosophies are giving congressional briefings on medical treatment for infertility.

Pope Leo, China, and the “Relationship Game”

Pillar

Cardinal Stephen Chow of Hong Kong met Pope Leo XIV September 2 for their first in-depth conversation since the pope’s election earlier this year.



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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