



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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Biweekly Ethics Update



The Moral Mind

Ethical and Religious Directives for
Catholic Health Care Services

Seventh Edition

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Image: Cover of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (seventh edition) by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, digital edition, November 2025.

Celebrating the New Revision of the ERDs

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) voted overwhelmingly to approve the **seventh edition** of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (ERDs) at its November 2025 meeting. The ERDs now notably includes an explicit prohibition against "gender-affirming care" at Catholic hospitals as well as many other beneficial updates to the text.

Education Corner

The NCBC **Chaplain Program** is a twelve (12) module, fully online, asynchronous course that introduces participants to the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (ERDs). The Program is designed primarily for chaplains and those providing spiritual care in Catholic health care institutions, but it is open to all. Its goal is to empower those engaged in health care ministry to effectively convey and apply the Church's moral tradition as expressed through the ERDs within their institutions. The course is self-paced and admission is rolling. **[Register here!](#)**

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Bioethics and Public Policy

Bioethics Public Policy Report

The NCBC's update on public policy developments in bioethics and health care on the state, federal, and international levels.

[Purchase NCBC Books and Resources](#)

Video, Radio, and Podcasts

The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

The Simple Truth Podcast

Dr. Joseph Meaney, Senior Fellow of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, examines the growing threats posed by artificial intelligence to human dignity, conscience, and the moral order. He warns that AI-driven technologies, if left unchecked, risk reducing human life to data, replacing personal responsibility with automated decision-making, and undermining the ethical foundations of medicine and society. Drawing on Catholic teaching, Dr. Meaney explains why a strong bioethical framework is essential to confront these challenges, defend the sanctity of life, and ensure technology serves humanity rather than dominates it.

[Invite an NCBC Speaker](#)

NCBC in the News

What Does the Catholic Church Say About "Embryo Adoption"?

LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio

Is the Matter of "Embryo Adoption" Really an Open Question?

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Senior Ethicist at the NCBC and hosts Todd and Ellen look at the expanding discussions around the proposal to "rescue" abandoned, cryopreserved human embryos in fertility clinics, where more than a million humans are believed to be trapped on ice. They look at two important Church documents, *Dignitas Personae* from 2008 and *Donum Vitae* from 1987, both of which use, at a minimum, strongly cautionary language regarding this controversial issue, with *Dignitas Personae* indicating specific instances in which 'embryo adoption' is declared to be "ethically unacceptable."

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Are you a doctor, nurse, patient, health care power of attorney, scientific researcher, medical student or resident, or someone else facing tough ethical decisions in health care and biomedical research? Are you a priest, chaplain, friend, family member, or someone else asked to advise on these matters? Our team is here to help you understand and apply the moral teachings of the Catholic Church to the challenges you face:

[Request a Free Ethics Consultation](#)

Please pray for our work and consider financially supporting our mission of defending the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research!

Make a Financial Gift

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) provides education, guidance, and resources to the Church and society to uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research, thereby sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ

and his Church. The NCBC envisions a world in which the integral understanding of the human person underlying Catholic teaching on respect for human life and dignity is better understood and more widely embraced in America and worldwide.

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