



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

Biweekly Ethics Update



The Moral Mind



The Personhood of the Preborn

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM

"It was refreshing to see that Puerto Rico now has a **law recognizing the personhood** of preborn children from the moment of conception. It amended the civil code of Puerto Rico to read, 'Every human being is a natural person, including the conceived child at any stage of gestation within the mother's womb.' This is a good reminder that there is still unfinished business when it comes to this issue within the Church and broader bioethics."

...to continue reading, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

The Diocese of Harrisburg's Catholic Social Teaching Symposium

Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, PA

January 31st 8:00am-5:30pm EST

The Diocese of Harrisburg's inaugural Catholic Social Teaching Symposium is a day dedicated to exploring the Church's response to some of the most urgent issues of our time. Through panels, breakout sessions, and practical discussions, participants will deepen their understanding of human dignity, solidarity, and our call to serve the common good. NCBC Senior Ethicist Joseph Meaney will be a panelist for their 1:45pm-2:55pm panel session on healthcare.

Education Corner

Registration for the Midyear 2026 NCBC Certification Program course is now open! Online classes begin February 23, 2026.

Register today.

The NCBC **Certification Program** is a 30-week (nine-month), online, immersive study in Catholic health care ethics designed for busy professionals. It prepares participants to apply Catholic moral teaching and the Church's authoritative guidance to resolve complex ethical dilemmas encountered in clinical practice, medical education, and research.

For further information about the Certification Program, please contact Joe Zalot, NCBC Director of Education, at **215-871-2014** or jzalot@ncbcenter.org.

Additionally, we will be hosting another two-day seminar in Tempe, AZ, on March 13-14, 2026, to address current topics in bioethics. These seminars are intended to benefit students, health care workers, clergy, those involved in research in the life sciences, members of ethics committees, and others who provide spiritual support and counsel to patients and their families. Those interested in understanding and advancing the Church's moral tradition in health care will also find them accessible, educational, and informative. For more information on our two-day seminars, click [here](#). To register for this seminar, click [here](#).



[Sign Up for NCBC Education Programs](#)

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



What do the Teaching Documents of the Catholic Church Say About Embryo Adoption?

This is the Day, CatholicTV, Boston

Co-hosts Jay Fadden and Kevin Nelson, along with Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center, look at Church teaching and the ethical issues surrounding proposals to encourage “embryo adoption” of abandoned, frozen embryos.

Understanding the Truth Behind IVF and Catholic Church Teaching



*“Strong Voices” on The Catholic Channel —
Sirius XM Satellite Radio*

Father Tad Pacholczyk joins co-hosts Kathryn Whitaker and Rachel Bulman to discuss what bioethics actually means and why the Catholic Church speaks so boldly about some of the key issues of our day. They discuss the interface of science and ethics, and the importance of a solid philosophical foundation and allegiance to reason, for properly understanding the wisdom of Church teachings in order to be able to avoid some of the common errors of the day such as moral relativism. Then they do a deep dive into the ethical concerns surrounding *in vitro* fertilization and discuss how couples

can navigate situations of infertility and discover the Lord's plan for their marriage and fruitfulness.



Where is the Line? IVF and Euthanasia pose hard questions for Catholics

Benedictine Dialogues on YouTube

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., a Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, and Dr. Mariele Courtois, Director of the Center of Technology and Human Dignity at Benedictine College, have an extended and detailed discussion about a range of ethical concerns arising from the deployment of modern biotechnologies and their impact in the arena of both end-of-life decision making and beginning-of-life choices.

What About the Cloning of Non-Human Animals?

LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio

Father Tad joins co-hosts Todd Sylvester and Ellen Taylor to discuss whether we should be cloning animals. When a famous Hollywood actor loses their beloved Fido to cancer, would an inordinate attachment to their departed dog constitute a sufficiently serious reason for embarking on a cloning project with a price tag of fifty or sixty thousand dollars? They discuss how our concern for exercising proper stewardship over animals ought to be a balanced

part of a broader concern to avoid exploiting the vulnerable. They also consider other circumstances that might justify cloning animals, such as advances in scientific research or the improvement of pharmaceutical testing and development.

Invite an NCBC Speaker

NCBC in the News

Ethicists Warn About the Dangers of Linking Assisted Suicide to Organ Donation

National Catholic Register

NCBC President John Di Camillo warns of abuses in organ procurement in light of assisted suicide and questions about the adequacy of the criteria used for determining death. He reminds us that the "calling of health care professionals is to heal, not to sacrifice some for the benefit of others."

Catholic doctors and ethicists react to CDC's revised childhood vaccine schedule

EWTN News

Commenting positively on the revised childhood vaccine schedule, NCBC Executive Vice President John Brehany states, "the new schedule appears to have been designed with good intent; that is, ... to have gained public trust in the absence of mandates and to have contributed to population health outcomes that meet or exceed those of the U.S." Elsewhere, NCBC President John Di Camillo states, "The people look to public health authorities precisely for this kind of guidance, which is responsive to continually evolving research, ongoing discussions among professionals in the medical field, and ethical principles that promote the common good, respect the dignity of the human person, and limit the interference of financial and ideological conflicts."

Research shows Catholic support for IVF declines once Church teaching is understood

Live Action

Father Tad Pacholczyk of the NCBC comments on the importance of generously sharing and witnessing to Christ's teachings in the area of biotechnology. He notes how broad support of IVF by the American public is connected to broader misunderstandings about human sexuality, common among Catholics and non-Catholics alike. IVF is 'babies without sex' while contraception is 'sex without babies,' and Catholics have regrettably adopted prevailing societal attitudes in regards to both of these issues. Some leaders in the Church do not seem committed to educating their parishioners about Church teachings pertaining to IVF so as not to "cause offense." Consequently, many Catholics may end up "in an ideological vacuum," learning about IVF from social media sites, the *Today Show*, or *People* magazine rather than the Church.

Can Congress Stop Chinese Billionaires From Fathering 100 Kids? A bill seeks to put some guardrails on a largely unregulated U.S. surrogacy industry.

The Dispatch

NCBC Senior Ethicist Joseph Meaney bemoans the surrogate motherhood industry as a form of human trafficking as understood from our American tradition of human rights. He adds that it and other morally problematic reproductive technologies treat the human person as a object, without the proper dignity and respect a human being should have.

[Sign Up for NCBC Membership](#)

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.

The NCBC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



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