



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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Biweekly Ethics Update



The Moral Mind



von Schwind, Moritz. *Three Boys Save the Despairing Pamina from Suicide*. 1864. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

The General Rise in Suicides and Legalized Assisted Suicide

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM

Changes in mentality and morality have led to a modern rise in suicides, especially in US states with legalized physician assisted suicide. Nationally, there was a 40% surge in suicides in the two decades following the year 2000. Oregon, the first US state to approve assisted suicide, had a dramatic spike in non-medicalized suicide afterwards that peaked at **41% over** the already dramatically increased national average. The state of Oregon then spent a great deal of money in attempting to reduce the youth suicide rate with moderate success. These efforts were hampered by the mixed message inherent in legalizing assisted suicide. Disability rights advocates logically point out the double standard of young and healthy people receiving suicide prevention while the elderly, sick, and handicapped get suicide promotion.

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

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

Another Embryo Mix-Up During IVF!

Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo on EWTN Radio

Father Tad joins Teresa Tomeo to discuss a news story regarding an IVF pregnancy mixup where a couple received the wrong embryo for implantation while doing IVF and gave birth to a child genetically unrelated to either the father or mother. They discuss the ethical violations inherent in the IVF process, as well as the

obvious potential for significant “collateral damage” and mixups as couples pay the massive and highly profitable IVF industry to produce offspring on their behalf. Segment begins at 0:33:04

[Invite an NCBC Speaker](#)

NCBC in the News



Father Tad Addresses 2026 Legatus National Summit Attendees

Legatus Blog

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Senior Ethicist at the NCBC, spoke to approximately 450 members of Legatus at their 2026 Legatus Summit in Santa Barbara, California on January 31. Legatus is a premier organization of Catholic businessmen committed to integrating faith and leadership while growing in faith, fellowship, and formation. It seeks to equip business leaders to become ambassadors for Christ in the marketplace. Father Tad addressed the emerging topic of "Age-Extension Technologies, Transhumanism and the ethics of 'Building a Better Human.'"

Department of Health and Human Services bars funding research using fetal tissue

The Catholic World Report

The recent NIH decision to stop funding for research that relies on fetal tissue of aborted babies is a welcome development, according to Father Tad Pacholczyk, senior ethicist at the NCBC. He emphasized that when it came to allowing human fetal tissues from elective abortions to be used in NIH-funded scientific investigations, several previous U.S. administrations have basically “dropped the ethical ball.” He also points out the importance of funding mechanisms for directing ethical discourse, and that “Disbursement of federal funding needs to be directly linked to our vision of good, ethical science.”

Minnesota Bishops’ Joint Statement on Their Collective Promulgation of the Seventh Edition of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services

Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis

The six Minnesota bishops issued a joint statement promulgating the seventh edition of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* and named the NCBC as an organization with robust resources to guide Catholic health care institutions and practitioners in their ministry.

[Sign Up for NCBC Membership](#)

From Our Collaborators



The graphic features a red background with a faint mosaic pattern. At the top left is a circular logo with a white heartbeat line. To its right, the text 'CONVERGING ROADS™' is written in a serif font, with the tagline 'WHERE HEALTH CARE ETHICS AND MEDICINE CONVERGE' below it. In the top right corner is the 'St. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION' logo. A central white box contains the title '2026 SPRING CONFERENCES' and a list of five events with their dates, locations, and themes. A small red box in the top right of this central area says 'IN PERSON & ONLINE'. At the bottom left of the graphic, it says 'CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AVAILABLE'. At the bottom right, the website 'CONVERGINGROADS.COM' is displayed.

CONVERGING ROADS™
WHERE HEALTH CARE ETHICS AND MEDICINE CONVERGE

2026 SPRING CONFERENCES IN PERSON & ONLINE

FEBRUARY 21 | SAN FRANCISCO, CA
The Future of Human Flourishing in Medicine

FEBRUARY 28 | AUSTIN, TX
The Future of Hippocratic Medicine

MARCH 21 | CHARLOTTE, NC
Medicine and the Dignified Mission to Heal

APRIL 11 | HOUSTON, TX
Health and Human Flourishing

APRIL 11 | FORT MYERS, FL
The Dignified Mission of Catholic Health Care

CONTINUING EDUCATION
CREDITS AVAILABLE

CONVERGINGROADS.COM

Converging Roads is a regional conference series offering continuing education for health care professionals that equips them to practice the highest ethical and medical standards of their profession. It is an initiative of the **St. John Paul II Foundation**. The NCBC's Joe Zalot will be speaking at the February 28 conference in Austin, TX.

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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