



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

The NCBC <info@ncbcenter.org>

Reply-To: info@ncbcenter.org

To: prolife@archkck.org

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THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

Biweekly Ethics Update



From the President



As we journey through Holy Week, I am first reminded of the many forms of suffering and distress we at the NCBC encounter through our work: patients and families facing end-of-life decisions, married couples struggling with the cross of infertility, health care professionals asked by their superiors to violate their consciences. Even bishops seeking to guide their flocks on hard teachings at odds with secular society. I am then humbled as I contemplate the many ways that the NCBC—at the service of those navigating in darkness or confusion—brings the light and life of Jesus Christ to our fallen world. Ours is truly a ministry of the spiritual works of mercy: counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, and praying for the living and the dead. In the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, through the beauty and integrity of the Church's teachings on the human person and matters of life and health, we are privileged to connect others more

deeply with Christ, Who transforms their tears into gladness through the radiant light of His Truth.

May the Lord bless you and your families and loved ones with a fruitful Holy Week, entering into the depths of the Paschal Mystery, and with the overflowing joy that awaits us in His glorious Resurrection!

In the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord,

John A. Di Camillo, PhD, BeL
President
The National Catholic Bioethics Center

Making Sense of Bioethics

The Smoke over Medical Marijuana

Father Tad Pacholczyk, PhD

A comprehensive 2015 scientific review found medical marijuana to be useful only for a small number of medical conditions. Writing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, an international team of researchers found scant evidence to support broad claims for the drug's effectiveness. Although clinical trials showed that chronic neuropathic pain and cancer-related pain could often be treated, other forms of pain, such as those related to rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, HIV and multiple sclerosis did not show statistically significant improvement. Researchers also found inconclusive data for people with insomnia, anxiety disorders, depression, Tourette syndrome, psychosis, and sleep disorders. They registered concerns about medical marijuana's significant side effects as well.

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

This installment of *Making Sense of Bioethics* is reprinted from an earlier version of Father Tad's column. Reprints and subscriptions to this series are available from the NCBC for newspapers, parish bulletins, newsletters, or journals. For information regarding subscriptions and permissions, please contact [Elizabeth Lee](#).

Announcements

Job Opening: Staff Accountant

At the National Catholic Bioethics Center, we believe in accuracy, integrity, and supporting our people. We are seeking a part-time Staff Accountant who is passionate about detail and eager to grow within a collaborative environment. To learn more, please click [this link](#).

Upcoming Events



Christendom College 2026 Summer Conference - Faith & Science: From Wonder to Human Genius

Christendom College hosts a weekend of intellectual renewal this August, where leading Catholic thinkers—including Stephen Barr, Father Tad Pacholczyk, David Deavel, John Cuddeback, and others—will explore the profound harmony between faith and science. Together, they will contemplate the wonder of creation and consider how human genius, rightly ordered, can serve truth, culture, and the dignity of the human person.

Education Corner

The NCBC is hosting a Two-Day Seminar at St. John Cantius Parish in Chicago, IL on April 24-25, 2026. The seminar, which addresses current topics in bioethics, will benefit health care professionals, medical and nursing students, clergy and religious, those involved in research in the life sciences, and those who provide spiritual support and counsel to patients and their families. Up to ten clinical medical education units (CMEs) are available for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and nurse practitioners. Individuals who seek to better understand and advance the Church's moral tradition in health care will also find the seminar accessible, educational, and informative.

For general information on NCBC Two-Day Seminars, click [here](#). To register for the Chicago seminar, click [here](#).

A blue rectangular poster for the NCBC Bioethics Seminar. At the top left is the NCBC logo, which includes a small icon of a church dome and the letters 'NCBC'. To the right of the logo, the text 'Bioethics Seminar' is written in white. Below this, it says 'Continuing Education Credits' and '9 CMEs Available' in a smaller white font. A red banner with white text reads 'Registration Now Open!'. In the background, there is a circular image of St. John Cantius Church in Chicago. At the bottom of the poster, the dates 'Friday & Saturday APRIL 24 & 25, 2026' and the location 'St. John Cantius Church Chicago, IL' are listed in white text.

NCBC
Bioethics Seminar
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9 CMEs Available
Registration Now Open!
Friday & Saturday
APRIL 24 & 25, 2026
St. John Cantius Church
Chicago, IL

[Sign Up for NCBC Education Programs](#)

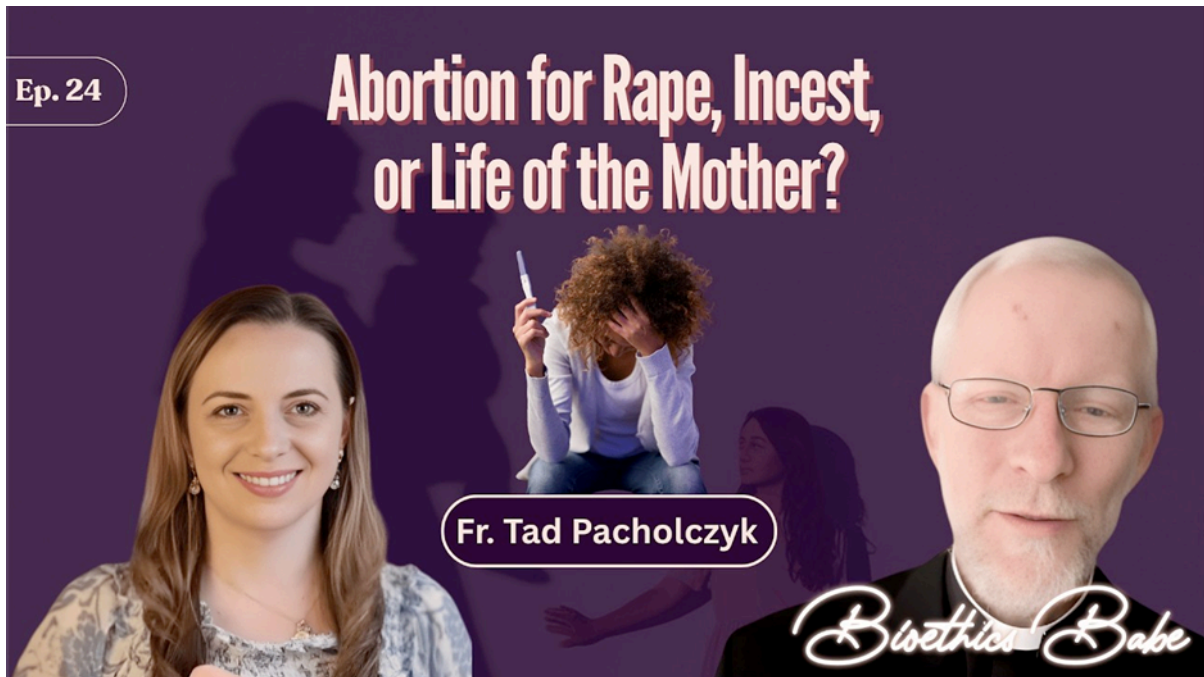
Bioethics and Public Policy

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



“Do Rape, Incest, & Life of the Mother Justify Abortion? A Bioethicist Responds” w/ Fr. Tad

Bioethics Babe Podcast

Father Tad Pacholczyk joined Arina Grossu Agnew for episode 24 of the *Bioethics Babe Podcast* to discuss complex, life-of-the-mother cases, in light of the important ethical principle known as The Principle of Double Effect.

How Can We Go About Reversing Unjust Laws Allowing for Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia?

LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Senior Ethicist at the NCBC, joins Ellen and Todd to discuss the growing number of laws sanctioning physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, focusing on new efforts to scale back the existing laws, for example, in the province of Alberta, Canada, and the strategies used recently to bring about the complete repeal of these types of laws in Slovenia via a highly successful public referendum.

[Invite an NCBC Speaker](#)

NCBC in the News

‘This Baby Is a Gift’: Trisomy 18 Awareness Day Reminds Us That Every Life Is Sacred

EWTN News

In hearing a diagnosis that one’s unborn child will have a disability, parents “quickly figure out they will have to become vigorous advocates for their children with disabilities.” Father Tad addresses the discrimination implied in describing a baby’s medical condition as “incompatible with life” along with the implied pressure to abort that should not be leveraged by those in the medical profession. He notes how the true greatness of a society will be measured by its compassion towards, and acceptance of, the disabled and the powerless.

[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.



The National Catholic Bioethics Center | [600 Reed Rd Suite 102 | Broomall, PA 19008 US](#)

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