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## Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

**The NCBC** <info@ncbcenter.org> Wed, May 27, 2026 at 2:02 PM
Reply-To: info@ncbcenter.org
To: prolife@archkck.org

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

# *Biweekly Ethics Update*

## From the President

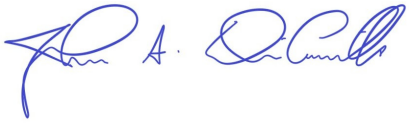
*Pope Leo XIV greets Dr. Di Camillo on February 16, 2026. © Vatican Media*

As we reflect on the first encyclical of Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas*, and the importance of human relationships in the face of the artificial intelligence revolution, I want to share with you a little bit about my personal encounter with the Holy Father himself just a few months ago.

I was honored and grateful to attend the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Academy for Life this past February. It was a joy to hear the Holy Father's voice in person for the first time during his address in Clementine Hall and to greet him afterward. During our brief conversation, he highlighted just how important the field of bioethics is today. I could not agree more!

I received Pope Leo's blessing on behalf of the NCBC and all those whom we serve, from bishops and health care ministries to health care professionals, educators, clergy, and the Catholic faithful. I look forward to seeing more deeply into his mind and heart as I carefully read and reflect on *Magnifica Humanitas*—and I pray you will, too.

May the Lord bless you all in this time of Pentecost!



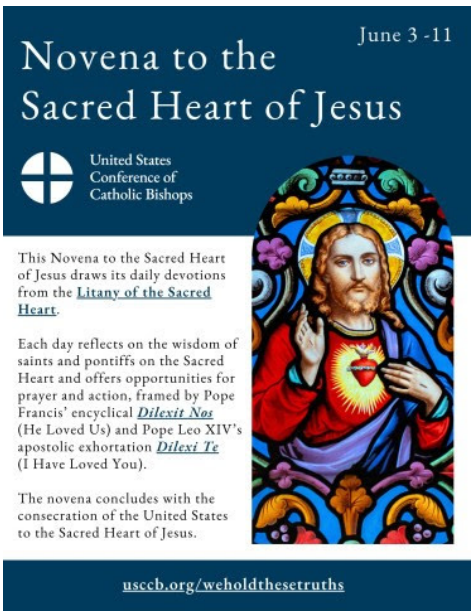
John A. Di Camillo, PhD, BeL
President
The National Catholic Bioethics Center

# Press Statement

## Press Statement: The NCBC Welcomes Pope Leo XIV's First Encyclical

**BROOMALL, Pa., May 27, 2026**—The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) gratefully welcomes *Magnifica Humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence*. It was signed by Pope Leo XIV on May 15, 2026, and released on May 25, 2026, marking the 135th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's landmark social encyclical Rerum Novarum.

# From the US Bishops




## Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

On June 11, 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From June 3-11, the US Church will pray this **Novena to the Sacred Heart**.

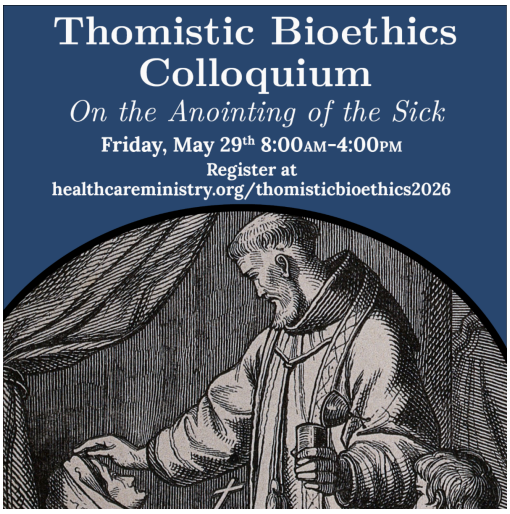
## Religious Freedom Week

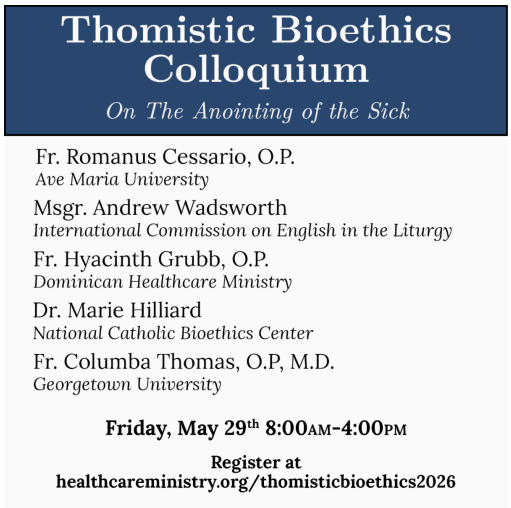
Religious Freedom Week 2026 will take place June 22–29. Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. Beginning June 22, the feast of **Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher**, the USCCB invites Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom.

# Upcoming Events

## "Anointing of the Sick in its Pastoral, Theological, and Historical Dimensions" 2nd Annual Thomistic Bioethics Colloquium

*Friday, May 29, St. Joseph's in Greenwich Village, New York*
This colloquium will engage with the thought of Thomas Aquinas to build on previous work on anointing of the sick, with attention also given to the Dominican rite of anointing, the apostolic pardon, and the new edition of The Order of Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care.




NCBC Senior Ethicist Dr. Marie Hilliard will present a talk entitled "The Apostolic Pardon: the Mercy of a Just God." The plenary indulgence, available to all the faithful who are properly disposed as they are dying, is a beautiful gift of holy mother Church. It is part the “last rites,” of the Catholic Church, which include Confession, anointing, viaticum, and the apostolic pardon (plenary indulgence). Dr. Hilliard will present on the accurate teaching of the Church on indulgences over the centuries, the wonderful gift of a plenary indulgence as persons face the hour of death, and the revised rite effective April 5, 2026.

**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.

# NCBC Publications

The Milwaukee Guild of the Catholic Medical Association hosted a talk entitled **“Dying Well: The Catholic Art of Spiritual and Sacramental Care"** by Fr. John LoCoco on January 31, 2026. His talk highlights and discusses the *Ars Moriendi* (or *The Art of Dying: A new annotated translation*) by Fr. Columba Thomas, OP, MD, and published by The NCBC. Copies are **available for purchase on our online store**.

**Purchase NCBC Books and Resources**

## Video, Radio, and Podcasts

### The Wisdom of the Church vs. the Federal Government's Efforts to Promote IVF

*Son Rise Morning Show, Sacred Heart Radio*
Matt Swaim and Anna Mitchell welcome NCBC Senior Ethicist Father Tad Pacholczyk to discuss why the Church stands against IVF in light of federal government efforts to promote it.

### Surrogacy, IVF, and the Long-Term Effects It Has on Children

*The Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo on EWTN Radio*
Teresa Tomeo and Father Tad speak about the ethical concerns surrounding surrogacy, the loss of the rights of the child being carried for a financial exchange and many other real mental health issues that surrogate children face. They discuss the powerful testimony of Olivia, herself born from surrogacy, who is on a mission to make the practice unacceptable and illegal. They also discuss in-vitro fertilization, embryo mix-ups, and consider the wisdom of the Church and the safeguards of the institution of marriage which protect and defends the rights of children.

## Joe Zalot on the ERD revisions (continued)

*Driving Home the Faith*
NCBC Director of Education Joe Zalot and host Ken Craycraft continue their discussion of revisions to the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*. In this interview, Joe and Ken tackle palliative care, voluntary stopping of eating and drinking (VSED), and the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary means of care.

**Invite an NCBC Speaker**

## NCBC in the News

## Together We Advocate – Oregon Right to Life

*Archdiocese of Portland, OR*
Father Tad presented on cutting edge issues in human embryo research and new developments in the biosciences and bioethics, addressing topics ranging from human cloning to mitochondrial transfers to try to treat inherited diseases, to embryonic stem cell research and human-animal hybrid embryos. See the last page of the **Oregon Flipbook Newsletter** for the ORTL newsletter write-up.

## Moms.gov Debuts with Pro-Life Resources as Administration Proposes Fertility Rule

*EWTN News*
Father Tadeusz comments on the new government website initiated to assist women with resources and tools to foster healthy pregnancies, mentioning fertility awareness-based methods and assistance in situations of apparent infertility.

## Virginia decriminalizes suicide. Some Catholics say this is complicated.

*National Catholic Reporter*

NCBC Senior Ethicist Dr. Joseph Meaney states that decriminalizing suicide can be problematic for how we think about it. Decriminalization potentially destigmatizes suicide by sending a message that it is *not* something unacceptable or immoral.

## Trump announces proposal to expand IVF insurance coverage

*Live Action News*
In light of President Trump's proposal to expand coverage for the immoral practice of in vitro fertilization, the author quotes **this article** by Dr. Joseph Meaney. Meaney's article states that IVF does not address the underlying health issues an infertile couple may be experiencing; on the other hand, restorative reproductive medicine (RRM) "aims to treat the root causes of dysfunctions that make it difficult or impossible for couples to conceive and bring to birth children."

**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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