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Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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Biweekly Ethics Update



Making Sense of Bioethics

Sorting Through "Solutions" to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic

Father Tad Pacholczyk, PhD

Each year human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infects about 50,000 people in the United States, and more than two million worldwide. Reducing the number of infections with this virus, which causes AIDS, is a high priority for public health officials. Some strategies to reach this goal, however, raise significant moral concerns.

...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: Donor and Member Relations Manager

Come work at The National Catholic Bioethics Center! We are looking for a full-time Donor and Member Relations Manager. If you love the Church, are committed to upholding the dignity of the human person, and are interested in sharing the work of the NCBC with others, this may be the role for you! To learn more, click [HERE!](#)

August is Make-A-Will Month!

August is Make-A-Will Month, a reminder of the importance of planning ahead for the sake of our loved ones.

As you may have heard, the NCBC has partnered with MyCatholicWill, an online will-writing tool designed specifically for Catholics. Through MyCatholicWill.com, you can complete a Catholic-friendly will in about 20 minutes, free of charge.

Begin today at mycatholicwill.com/NCBCENTER.



Education Corner



The NCBC is hosting Two-day Seminars at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND on Oct. 1-2, 2026, and at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, NY on Oct. 23-24, 2026. These seminars, which address 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 Bismarck seminar, click [here](#).

To register for the Rockville Centre seminar, click [here](#).

[Sign Up for NCBC Education Programs](#)

NCBC Publications

Available Now: *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Seventh Edition

This seventh edition of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (ERDs) was approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in November 2025. The ERDs distill authoritative Church teachings and resources from the Catholic moral tradition to help Catholic health care address clinical issues across the lifespan, as well as in organizational ethics, with fidelity and integrity.

The ERDs present a theological basis for Catholic health care ministry together with specific directives that "promote and protect the truths of the Catholic faith as those truths are brought to bear on concrete

**Ethical and
Religious
Directives for
Catholic Health
Care Services**

Seventh Edition

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

issues in health care" (Preamble, p. 5). They are an indispensable resource for health care ministry sponsors, trustees, administrators, chaplains, physicians, health care personnel, and patients, as well as for all professionals, ethicists, educators, and others interested in the principles and practice of Catholic health care.

The seventh edition of the ERDs includes updates and new content on topics including referral for immoral procedures, assisted reproductive technologies, palliative and hospice care, and medical interventions for those who experience gender incongruence.

Standard Pocket Size Version

To purchase, please click [here for smaller orders](#) (1-5 copies) or [here for bulk orders](#) (6 or more copies).

Purchase NCBC Books and Resources

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.

Video, Radio, and Podcasts



**Cultural Connections, The Fiat Project,
France...Euthanasia and more...**

Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo

NCBC Senior Ethicist Father Tad Pacholczyk and Teresa Tomeo discuss the news that France has now legalized physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia (segment begins at 1:12:58). They look at the inadequacy of supposed “safeguards” that were promoted to get the law passed and the harsh reality that financial concerns will quickly gain ascendancy, as it becomes clear how much less expensive it is to kill a patient than to offer him or her proper medical care. They also discuss the problem of Catholic politicians who vote in favor of immoral laws and examine the redemptive mystery of suffering that touches the journey of every human life.

Should We Be Studying Explanted Human Brains in Vats?

LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio

Father Tad joins Ellen and Todd to discuss why a biotech company is taking donated human brains shortly after death and connecting them to a life-support system that circulates oxygen and nutrients through the brain. The brains show no signs of consciousness and are kept under anesthesia to suppress electrical activity, but a lot of their basic cellular and metabolic functions continue. They are studied for roughly 24 hours, providing the researchers with an opportunity to observe how experimental drugs affect the brain.

Invite an NCBC Speaker

NCBC in the News

What's Happened to Hospice?

National Catholic Register

Commenting on the state of hospice care in the United States, NCBC Senior Ethicist Dr. Joseph Meaney points to the issue of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada making it questionable whether Canadian Catholic health care institutions can be completely removed from MAiD while participating in the public health care system. He notes that, though the US has stronger religious liberty protections than Canada, American Catholic institutions are seeing increased pressure to participate in

physician-assisted suicide systems, including referring to physicians who practice assisted suicide.

Workshop Delves into Pastoral, Ethical Considerations for End-of-Life Care

The Catholic Witness

On July 25, the Diocese of Harrisburg's Office for Life and Dignity hosted "A Catholic Perspective on End-of-Life Care" featuring Dr. Joseph Meaney as a seminar speaker. He talked about assisted suicide legalization and examples of modern healthcare hastening the death of its patients. He shared, "The Catholic perspective is one of respecting the dignity of the human person and never treating human life as an evil to be extinguished... Our guiding light is the view that human life is a precious gift from God that we cannot reject or terminate for our own convenience. It can be difficult to go through the dying process, and there is a need to assist patients and give them pastoral and medical care. What is not a good solution is to declare that some people's lives are meaningless and that they are better off dead such that lethal means are used to end their lives."

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