



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

## Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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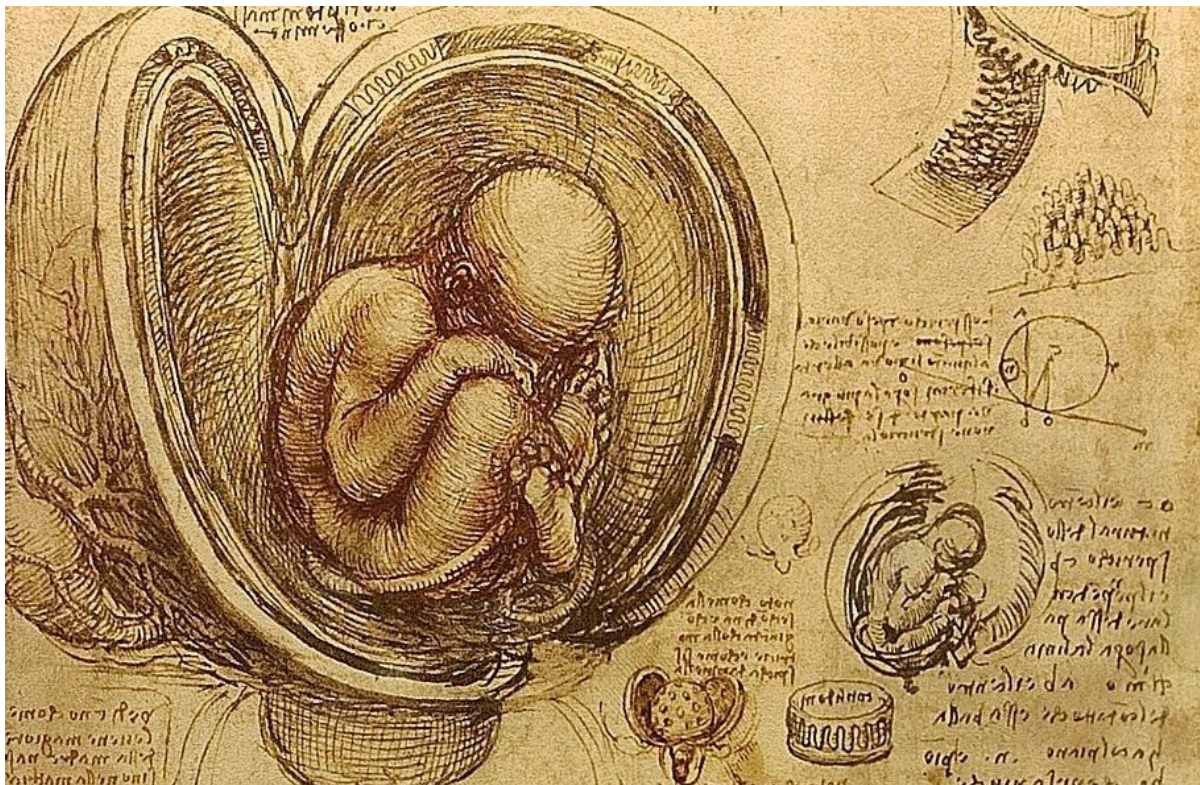


# THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

## *Biweekly Ethics Update*



The Moral Mind



## Ethical Problems in Prenatal Testing

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM

The US Catholic Bishops, in directive 50 of The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, summarize well the ethics of prenatal tests:

"Prenatal diagnosis is permitted when the procedure does not threaten the life or physical integrity of the unborn child or the mother and does not subject them to disproportionate risks; when the diagnosis can provide information to guide preventive care for the mother or pre- or postnatal care for the child; and when the parents, or at least the mother, give free and informed consent. Prenatal diagnosis is not permitted if undertaken with the intention of aborting an unborn child with a serious defect."

Indeed, the ethical "elephant in the room" is the motivation behind the now near universal prenatal testing pushed by many governments and health care entities. The aim is usually to detect any fetal health problems and make possible the abortion of those children.

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

## 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](https://mycatholicwill.com/NCBCENTER).



From the Caribbean Bishops

## Caribbean bishops warn 'gender ideology' obscures sacramental meaning of the body

*Zeale*

On July 26, the bishops of the Caribbean released a pastoral letter on sexual and gender identity during what they describe as an increasingly secular and confused age. It reaffirms the sacramental meaning of the body and urges parents and educators to "teach that the Lord's design for the body is ordered toward self-giving love."

## 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 issues in health care" (Preamble, p. 5). They are an indispensable resource for health care ministry sponsors, trustees, administrators,

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

*Seventh Edition*

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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



### Organ Donation

*Relevant Radio, The Drew Mariani Show*

NCBC Senior Ethicist Fr. Tad Pacholczyk joins Drew to discuss an OPO (organ procurement organization) that was recently federally de-certified because of blatant violations of protocol affecting

patient safety. They also discussed related topics, such as: what brain death is (38:11), organ donation seems problematic to me (42:29), and call-ins, including a story of a daughter's brain hemorrhage (45:07), and a story of a son saved by kidney and a liver transplant (47:24).

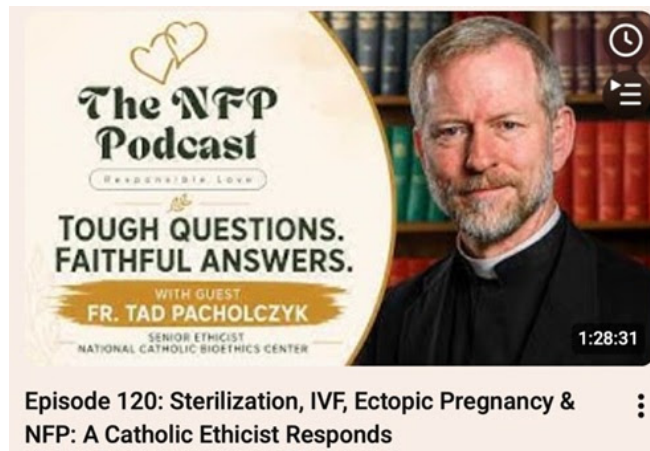


## Death by Organ Donation and more...

### *Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo*

Fr. Tad and Teresa discuss the new law that Governor Maura Healey of Massachusetts signed allowing a woman to end her baby's life through abortion at any point during the 9 months of pregnancy. They look at the challenge of forming Catholics, including Catholic legislators, to understand the objective lines of moral obligation. Those who promote evils like abortion and euthanasia are incessant in their efforts. What does it mean to say that certain actions are "intrinsically evil"?

They also discuss death by organ donation as a way to sanitize the evils of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. A recent article in the New England Journal of Medicine has sparked discussions around bypassing the long-revered and respected Dead Donor Rule by starting to take organs in some instances where a person is still alive but desires to be a donor before they are dead. We all have a part to play in pushing back against these escalating evils in our society, and for our part, speaking with clarity to those we are in relationship with, and according to our state in life, helps in eventually reversing the tide.



## Sterilization, IVF, Ectopic Pregnancy & NFP: A Catholic Ethicist Responds

### *The NFP Podcast*

Amy and Emily are joined by Fr. Tad for an honest and compassionate conversation about the Church's moral teaching on some of the questions couples and faithful Catholics wrestle with, such as: The ethics of ectopic pregnancy and morally permissible medical treatment; How should NFP educators approach couples who are sexually active before marriage? How should spouses respond when one spouse chooses sterilization against the wishes of the other? Is sterilization reversal required by those who repent of the act? And more. Fr. Tad reminds listeners how the Church's teachings are never arbitrary rules — they are an invitation to human flourishing ultimately pointing every couple toward authentic freedom, deeper communion, and greater holiness.

## 08-05-26 Spirit Mornings Show

### *The Spirit Mornings Show*

Co-hosts Jeb Eischeid and Jen Brown discuss physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia with Fr. Tad. They also look at the growing practice of patients who intend to take their own life, with the assistance of their physician or medical team, and immediately after, plan to become organ donors. The co-occurrence of these events raises serious problems of cooperation in evil as hospitals become places where people are shepherded along to commit suicide or are killed by euthanasia, leading to a corruption



of the mission of the physician and hospital from that of healer to killer.

### **[Invite an NCBC Speaker](#)**

## NCBC in the News

### **Medicaid formally ends funds for ‘sex-rejecting procedures’ for minors with final rule**

#### *EWTN News*

Fr. Tad and Dr. Joseph Meaney, NCBC Senior Ethicists, comment on the recent and welcome ruling by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that bans the use of taxpayer dollars for sex-rejecting procedures performed on children and youth.

### **Surrogate mother’s flight to Texas for birth praised by pro-life leaders**

#### *Crux*

Crux interviewed Dr. Joseph Meaney for an article on McKenna West, the surrogate mother who refused the order to have an abortion. Meaney pointed out how surrogacy contracts frequently dehumanize preborn children and surrogate mothers by requiring abortions if a medical problem is detected in the baby. He also pointed out that there are few well designed scientific studies of the problems caused to children born this way and to their surrogate mothers.

### **[Sign Up for NCBC Membership](#)**

## From Our Collaborators