



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

## Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 1:45 PM



# THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

## *Biweekly Ethics Update*



The Moral Mind



### **An Official Celebration of Abortion**

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM

Catholicism identifies a specific category of sin called theological scandal: leading others to sin by the bad example of one's words or actions. Leaders and institutions can commit grave wrongs that damage the spiritual and moral life of the community. This is not

just a Catholic belief but is recognized across virtually all organized religions. The secular world can also be scandalized when common moral norms are publicly violated. The governor of Massachusetts, Maura Healey, was the occasion of grave scandal in August when she signed a bill into law removing all meaningful restrictions on abortion until the moment of birth. The gleeful atmosphere at the signing ceremony, with clapping and cheering, was an especially shocking display of disregard for the dignity and right to life of preborn children.

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

## Announcements

### **Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio Elected Chairman of the NCBC Board of Directors**

**BROOMALL, PA, September 8, 2026**—The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) is pleased to announce that Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, was elected as the new chairman of its board of directors on June 9, 2026. “We are blessed to have the leadership and wisdom of Archbishop Broglio in this new role after his many years of service as a member of the board,” said Dr. John A. Di Camillo, President of the NCBC.

### **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!](#)

## From the US Bishops

### **Pray and Take Action to Protect Women and Babies from Abortion Pills**

The NCBC urges its members and friends to join Bishop Daniel Thomas and The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities in a campaign of prayer and action to protect women and babies from the evil of abortion pills. The campaign includes a beautiful prayer to St. Joseph Defender of Life (below). Participants of the initiative are encouraged to **sign up** to pray; share information about the dangers of abortion pills; and send messages to pharmacies, distributors, and pharmaceutical companies. More information on this initiative can be found on their **webpage**.



### A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

*Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life — especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.*

## Upcoming Events

### **NCBC at End-of-Life Decision Making Workshop**

*Baton Rouge, LA, October 31, 2026*

NCBC Director of Education Joe Zalot will be the main speaker at the "End-of-Life Decision Making and the Dignity of Human Life" workshop. It is jointly sponsored by the Dioceses of Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Topics to be addressed include determining ordinary and extraordinary means of care, advance directives, euthanasia and assisted suicide, and palliative care and hospice. For more information and to register for the event, please [click here](#).

Sponsored by:  The Roman Catholic Diocese of **BATON ROUGE**  **DIocese of LAFAYETTE**  
OFFICE OF PRO-LIFE APOSTOLATE

in partnership with:  **THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER**

## End-of-Life Decision Making and the Dignity of Human Life

**"Let us care for one another as Christ cared for us." - Romans 15:7**

**When:** Saturday, October 31, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Lunch Provided)  
**Where:** Tracy Center Auditorium  
 Catholic Life Center  
 1800 S. Acadian Thruway  
 Baton Rouge, LA

**Registration is required**  
 Use the QR Code or this link:  
<https://diobr.org/rlc-event>

**The talks will include:**

- Ordinary and extraordinary end-of-life care: Nutrition & hydration and pain medication
- Advance directives: Power of Attorney and living wills
- Catholic teaching on euthanasia and assisted suicide
- Ethical challenges w. palliative care and hospice

**Meet our speaker:**



Dr. Joe Zalot is a nationally recognized Catholic ethicist and the Director of Education at The NCBC. He lectures across the country, and has provided more than 2,200 ethics consultations, helping many make faithful medical decisions in accordance with Catholic teaching.

**"The important thing is to give people good and faithful information so they can make good decisions in line with the teachings of the Church." - Dr. Zalot**

## NCBC Speaker Highlight

Joe Zalot, PhD



Joe is the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center where he oversees all aspects of the NCBC Certification Program, Chaplain Program, Two-Day Seminars, and "Introduction to Catholic Health Care Ethics" course for Catholic high schools and homeschooling networks. He has authored multiple statements, guides, and book chapters for NCBC publications, and has responded to more than 2,200 ethics consultations. Prior to the NCBC, he served for two years as the Regional Director of Ethics and Spiritual Care for Mercy Health—Cincinnati and for eleven years as an associate professor at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati.

Joe is a dynamic speaker who has addressed numerous audiences including medical associations, bishops' conferences, diocesan organizations, and parish groups. Topics include assisted reproductive technologies, gender ideology, AI and Catholic health care, end-of-life decision-making, euthanasia & assisted suicide, and palliative care & hospice. Joe has been interviewed by local and national media and is a biweekly guest on Sacred Heart Radio's "Driving Home the Faith" program.

**Invite him to speak at your event.**

## 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

### ***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, 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**

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

*Seventh Edition*

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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

### **Should Religious Exemptions for Vaccine Mandates Be Available in Catholic Schools and Catholic Hospitals?**

#### *LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio*

Do Catholics have a basis to be able to claim a religious exemption from vaccine mandates? What are the differences between conscience exemptions and religious exemptions when it comes to vaccine mandates? What are some of the ethical concerns that can arise in the wake of very broad or universal mandates? NCBC Senior Ethicist Father Tad joins Ellen and Todd to look at different classes of exemptions as they discuss diocesan policies that may require school children, hospital employees, or others to receive vaccines as a condition for enrollment or employment. The segment begins at 33:35.

### **Invite an NCBC Speaker**

## NCBC in the News

### **Study: Doctors Don't Screen for Abortion Coercion — and It Hurts Women**

#### *National Catholic Register*

Father Tad comments on a recent study highlighting that, when women are coerced or pressured into abortion, they are at elevated risk for negative outcomes. Kate Quiñones of the National Catholic Register reviews the findings of the study, noting that, even though coercion and pressure to abort are the highest predictive risk factors for negative outcomes, physicians rarely inquire about or screen for these factors with their patients. Father Tad emphasizes how “a key duty of the physician or healthcare professional, in seeking to ‘do no harm,’ would be to try to dissuade their patients from acting on any desire to procure a direct abortion,” also noting that “a candid discussion about the broad range of potential bad outcomes from the procedure provides an excellent starting point for dialoguing with their patients in a moment of crisis.”

## **Florida’s Catholic School Vaccine Fight Doesn’t Need a Winner and a Loser**

*National Catholic Register*

This article highlights the NCBC's [vaccine exemption template letter](#) which draws on Church teaching regarding vaccination, conscience, and therapeutic proportionality of a medical intervention.

## **New York says Catholic sisters will not be required to participate in assisted suicide**

*EWTN News*

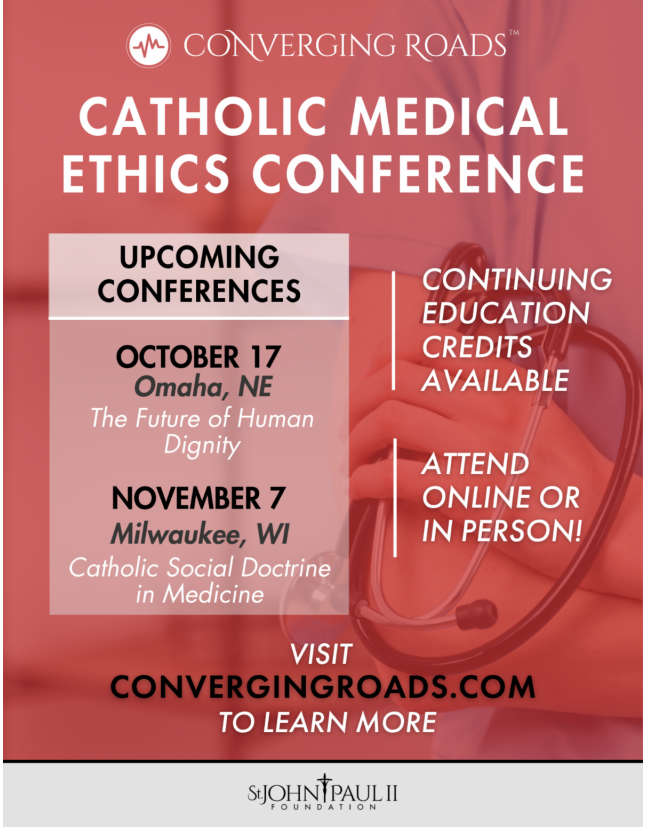
Bishop John Barres is the bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and a member of the NCBC's board of directors. He and a group of religious sisters in New York state had a legal victory in being relieved from being forced to participate in assisted suicide while their lawsuit against the state proceeds. Bishop Barres stated, "New York cannot force the Church to answer suffering with suicide or abandon the sick and dying when they need care most... Until our legal fight is resolved, this temporary agreement keeps our ministries free to serve every patient according to the Gospel."

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

## From Our Collaborators

**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**.

Registration is now open for their two fall conferences. Joe Zalot, the NCBC's Director of Education, will be speaking at the November 7 conference in Milwaukee, WI.



**CONVERGING ROADS™**

# CATHOLIC MEDICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

**OCTOBER 17**  
**Omaha, NE**  
*The Future of Human Dignity*

**NOVEMBER 7**  
**Milwaukee, WI**  
*Catholic Social Doctrine in Medicine*

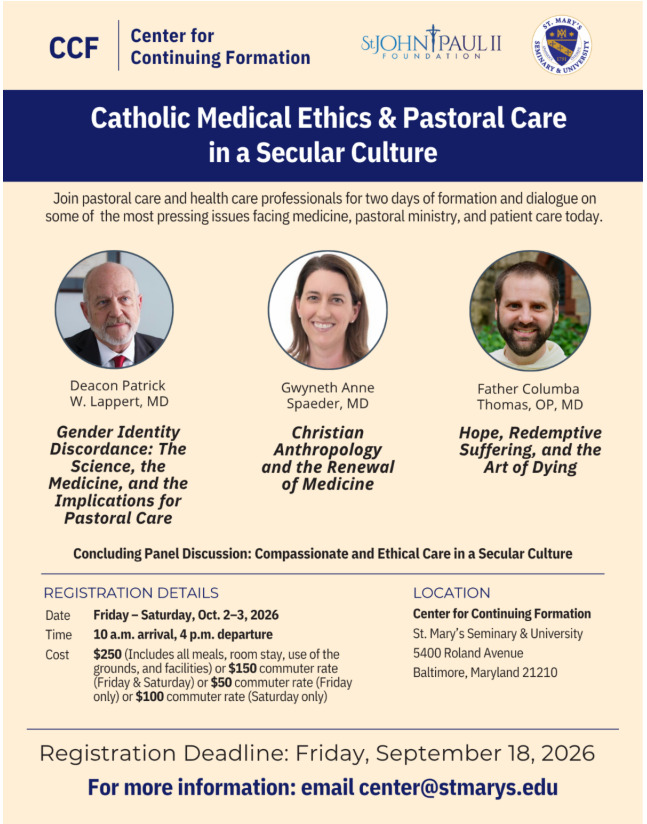
**CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AVAILABLE**

**ATTEND ONLINE OR IN PERSON!**

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**CONVERGINGROADS.COM**  
TO LEARN MORE

St. John Paul II Foundation

The St. John Paul II Foundation is also partnering with **St. Mary's University and Seminary's Center for Continuing Education** to present "Catholic Medical Ethics & Pastoral Care in a Secular Culture" on October 2-3, 2026 in Baltimore, MD. Participants will explore Christian anthropology, hope and redemptive suffering, gender dysphoria, and the call to provide compassionate, ethical care in an increasingly secular culture. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).



**CCF** | Center for Continuing Formation

St. John Paul II Foundation

St. Mary's University & Seminary

## Catholic Medical Ethics & Pastoral Care in a Secular Culture

Join pastoral care and health care professionals for two days of formation and dialogue on some of the most pressing issues facing medicine, pastoral ministry, and patient care today.



Deacon Patrick W. Lappert, MD

**Gender Identity Discordance: The Science, the Medicine, and the Implications for Pastoral Care**



Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD

**Christian Anthropology and the Renewal of Medicine**



Father Columba Thomas, OP, MD

**Hope, Redemptive Suffering, and the Art of Dying**

Concluding Panel Discussion: Compassionate and Ethical Care in a Secular Culture

| REGISTRATION DETAILS |                                                                                                                                                                                                 | LOCATION                                        |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Date                 | Friday – Saturday, Oct. 2–3, 2026                                                                                                                                                               | Center for Continuing Formation                 |
| Time                 | 10 a.m. arrival, 4 p.m. departure                                                                                                                                                               | St. Mary's Seminary & University                |
| Cost                 | \$250 (Includes all meals, room stay, use of the grounds, and facilities) or \$150 commuter rate (Friday & Saturday) or \$50 commuter rate (Friday only) or \$100 commuter rate (Saturday only) | 5400 Roland Avenue<br>Baltimore, Maryland 21210 |

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 18, 2026

For more information: email [center@stmarys.edu](mailto:center@stmarys.edu)

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

Write your Last Will and Testament for **FREE**, courtesy of The National Catholic Bioethics Center.

**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. HONOR YOUR FAITH.**

Click on this banner or go to: [MyCatholicwill.com/NCBCENTER](https://MyCatholicwill.com/NCBCENTER)



*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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