



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

The NCBC <info@ncbcenter.org>

Reply-To: info@ncbcenter.org

To: prolife@archkck.org

Tue, Sep 29, 2026 at 1:31 PM



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

Biweekly Ethics Update



From the President



Dear friend of the NCBC,

Today, on this feast of the Holy Archangels, we at The National Catholic Bioethics Center will consecrate our work to the glorious

Prince of the Church, Saint Michael. We will be praying for you, for our benefactors, and for all those we serve.

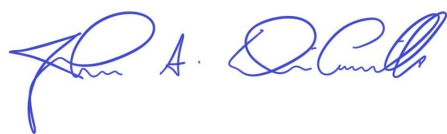
I encourage you to reflect on Saint Michael's great power, which flows from God through his humility. He is an archangel from the second-lowest of the nine angelic choirs, and yet he casts down the rebellious Lucifer—an angel from highest choir attending at the throne of God.

Saint Michael's humility is so profound that he rallies the angelic forces with a simple question: "Who is like unto God?" His humble ask, calling on each listener to draw the incontestable conclusion, stands in contrast to Satan's assertion, "Non serviam," which is the mantra of pride.

Please join us today by praying the Saint Michael prayer or by making another spiritual offering to sustain our mission, such as this prayer which will conclude our consecration:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who, by a prodigy of goodness and a merciful desire for the salvation of all men, has appointed the most glorious Archangel Saint Michael Prince of Your Church, make us worthy, we ask You, to be delivered from all our enemies, that none of them may harass us at the hour of death, but that we may be conducted by him into Your Presence. This we ask through the merits of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Saint Michael the Archangel, perfect adorer of the Incarnate Word, pray for us!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John A. Di Camillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "D. Camillo" clearly legible.

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

Making Sense of Bioethics

The “Bitter Pill” of False Liberation

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, PhD

A major study published on December 7, 2017, in the *New England Journal of Medicine* concludes that hormonal contraception increases the risk of breast cancer for women. The research used all of Denmark as its sample, following nearly 1.8 million Danish women of childbearing age for over a decade. The study, as described by the *New York Times*, “upends widely held assumptions about modern contraceptives for younger generations of women,” especially the view that “newer hormonal contraceptives are much safer than those taken by their mothers or grandmothers.” It also establishes that the risk to women increases with longer periods of use. Major media outlets have done their best to minimize the implications of the study and “soften the blow” for the millions who, for decades, have faithfully embraced a “contraceptive mentality.”

...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](#)!

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 NCBC Events

FranU Bioethics Lectures

Dr. John Di Camillo will be giving two lectures at Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University in Baton Rouge, LA. The first is on September 30, 2026 and is entitled "Catholic Healthcare for the 21st Century: Recent Revisions to the *Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs)*." The second is on October 1, 2026 and is entitled "The Church's Positive Vision for End-of-Life Care." For more information and to register, click [here](#).


FRANCISCAN
 MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY
 UNIVERSITY

FALL 2026 | Bioethics Lectures

Sponsored by Dr. Redfield & Mrs. Carol Ann Bryan



John Di Camillo, PhD

Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm

"Catholic Healthcare for the 21st Century: Recent Revisions to the *Ethical and Religious Directives*"

Thursday, October 1 at 9:00 am

"The Church's Positive Vision for End-of-Life Care"

John Di Camillo is the President of The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), where he has served as an ethicist since 2011. His experience includes fielding thousands of personal ethics consultations, supporting Catholic health care organizations with ethical guidance, and developing recommendations for bishops and dioceses. He has published numerous articles and has given scores of health care ethics presentations, including for the NCBC's Workshops for Bishops, diocesan clergy convocations, grand rounds for health care professionals, and the Catholic Medical Association's Annual Boot Camp for medical students and residents.

Register Here!



St. Francis Hall, 5414 Brittany Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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 2,000 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

John Brehany, PhD, STL



John is The National Catholic Bioethics Center's Executive Vice President and Director of Institutional Relations. In the latter role, John leads NCBC services for dioceses and institutional partners, including health care systems, hospitals, corporations, and parishes. John also created and oversees NCBC's

Catholic Identity and Ethics Review (CIER) program, which provides comprehensive assessments of Catholic health care based on the *Ethical and Religious Directives*.

John is a dynamic speaker who has expertise on a wide range of topics, from human embryonic stem cell research and IVF, to genetic engineering, to end-of-life care issues and euthanasia, and many topics in between. He is a leading authority on the *Ethical and Religious Directives*. Most recently, John has published articles and organized symposiums addressing vaccine ethics and brain death.

Prior to joining the NCBC, John was executive director of the Catholic Medical Association and has taught at multiple universities, including Saint Louis University, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, University of Mary, and Mount Angel Seminary. John holds a Ph.D. in health care ethics, a licentiate in sacred theology, and a master's degree in philosophy.

[Invite him to speak at your event.](#)

Education Corner

The NCBC is a Two-day Seminar 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 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

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

Seventh Edition

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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.

Invite an NCBC Speaker

NCBC in the News

Education efforts underway as Catholics navigate new Illinois physician-assisted suicide law

OSV News

The NCBC's Joe Zalot was featured in this article regarding Illinois' new physician-assisted suicide law. He speaks about his own father's death and the increasingly prevalent culture of assisted suicide in American health care facilities. He also notes that many faithful Catholics don't know or understand Church teaching on

physician-assisted suicide, thus making it important to demonstrate what happens when it becomes legalized.

[Sign Up for NCBC Membership](#)

From the Field

This section contains readings and events from the field of bioethics that may be of interest to our readers. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the NCBC, and inclusion does not necessarily constitute endorsement.

Job Opening: Director of Education, Mission Integration

Catholic Health of Long Island is hiring a Director of Education who will advance the healing mission of Catholic Health through education and formation throughout the health system, strengthening and integrating Catholic identity and mission broadly conceived so that all Catholic Health employees recognize and treat every human person as being made in the image of God. This individual will coordinate with the NCBC for additional training opportunities in collaboration with Catholic Health. To view the listing, please click [here](#).

Catholic Medical Ethics & Pastoral Care in a Secular Culture

The **St. John Paul II Foundation** is partnering with **St. Mary's University and Seminary's Center for Continuing Education** for this event 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](#).

Converging Road Conferences

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 open for their two fall conferences. NCBC Director of Education Joe Zalot will speak at the November 7 conference in Milwaukee, WI. For more information, please click [here](#).






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 Time 10 a.m. arrival, 4 p.m. departure 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)	Center for Continuing Formation St. Mary's Seminary & University 5400 Roland Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 18, 2026

For more information: email center@stmarys.edu



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Milwaukee, WI
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What does the Catholic Church Teach about Embryo Adoption?

DefendLife.org is hosting a Mass for the feast of Saint John Paul II followed by a debate on embryo adoption on October 22, 2026 in Washington, DC. It features NCBC President Emeritus Dr. John Haas and Dr. Elizabeth Rex of The Donum Vitae Institute. For more information, see the accompanying flyer which can also be found [here](#).

Join Us

Thursday, October 22
Saint John Paul II National Shrine
 3900 Harewood Road, NE, Washington DC 20017

5 PM
Mass for the Feast of Saint John Paul II

6:30 PM
Pro-Life Debate in the Auditorium
What does the Catholic Church Teach about Embryo Adoption?

John Haas, PhD, STL, M.Div • President Emeritus, The National Catholic Bioethics Center • Founder & President, The International Institute for Culture	Elizabeth Rex, PhD, MBA, ThD (cand.) • Associate Scholar, The Charlotte Lozier Institute • 3 Books on Embryo Adoption • Founder & President, The Donum Vitae Institute
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• Currently serves as the John Cardinal Krol Professor of Moral Theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

• Formerly served as Adjunct Professor of Catholic Bioethics & Medical Ethics at Holy Apostles College & Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut

This debate will be Live Streamed at [Facebook.com/WeDefendLife](https://www.facebook.com/WeDefendLife)
Co-sponsored by WakeUp ([WakeUp.Mom](#)) and Missy Smith

Seating is limited for this unprecedented event!
RSVP - call or text Missy Smith • 202-288-4984
 For copies of this flyer visit [DEFENDLIFE.org](https://www.DefendLife.org)

Rethinking Youth Gender Medicine: Charting a Path Forward

The **Society of Evidence Based Gender Medicine** is hosting its annual conference on November 5–7, 2026 in Washington, DC. It will bring together leading researchers and clinicians—along with patients, parents, and legal experts—for three days of thoughtful discussion of the state of evidence underlying the field of youth gender medicine. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

CCBI Bioethics Forum Releases Two National Resources for Catholic Healthcare

Catholic Connect

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) Bioethics Forum has released two national resources aimed at strengthening ethical formation and decision-making in Catholic healthcare institutions and among the wider Catholic community in India. They are entitled *A Primer on Catholic Bioethics: Ethical Decisions in Life*

and Healthcare and the Guidance Document on the Setting Up of Hospital Ethics Committees in Catholic Healthcare Institutions.

Theology of the Body in the Age of AI

The Catholic Thing

"Everyone who knows anything about Pope John Paul II's 'theology of the body' 'knows' that it is about sex. Anyone who knows more than a little about the theology of the body understands that to say it is about sex is a bit like saying the book of Genesis is a treatise on the morality of fruit consumption. The theology of the body is an extended exercise in incarnational anthropology. It is about human embodiedness. Because of this, it has a great deal to teach us beyond the realm of human sexuality. To the point, the theology of the body offers a striking and underappreciated relevance for our thinking about Artificial Intelligence." ... to continue reading, click [here](#).

Nurse Saints

At the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants (CICIAMS) 22nd World Congress hosted by the National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA (NACN-USA), *The Book of Nurse Saints* was released. It was the effort of Diana Ruzicka to help nurses be holy, become saints, and also an effort to show how many of our saints worked in infirmaries, as Red Cross nurses, in homes, hospitals, etc. prior to nursing licensure and afterwards. Biographies of nurses who have been declared saints, blessed, venerable, servants of God, martyrs, or mystics are now free online at nursesaints.com.

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!

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

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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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