



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

The NCBC <info@ncbcenter.org>

Reply-To: info@ncbcenter.org

To: prolife@archkck.org

Wed, Oct 14, 2026 at 10:11 AM



THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

Biweekly Ethics Update



From the President

Dear friend of the NCBC,

The Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month in this Marian month of October. Let us pray for the strengthening of a culture of life in the hearts and minds of people across our nation!

October is also Mental Health Awareness Month. Our bishops have encouraged us to pray a Novena for Mental Health that runs from October 10th to October 18th, the feast of Saint Luke, patron of physicians. Please consider joining or offering your own prayers for ethically sound mental health ministry to be established throughout the Church.

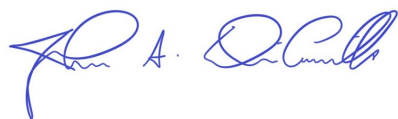


An array of heavenly intercessors are honored in the month of October, including Saint Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of the Rosary, and Saint Teresa of Avila. The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) has a particular connection with Pope Saint John XXIII, known as the “Good Pope,” who was our namesake from the time of our founding in 1972 until 1998.

Originally called the Pope John XXIII Medical-Moral Research and Education Center, the NCBC is built on fidelity to the Magisterium and serves the Church and society with education, guidance, and resources to uphold the dignity of the human person. In honor of the optional memorial of Saint John XXIII, I invite us all to reflect and pray on these words of his from his encyclical letter, *Ad Petri Cathedram* (1959):

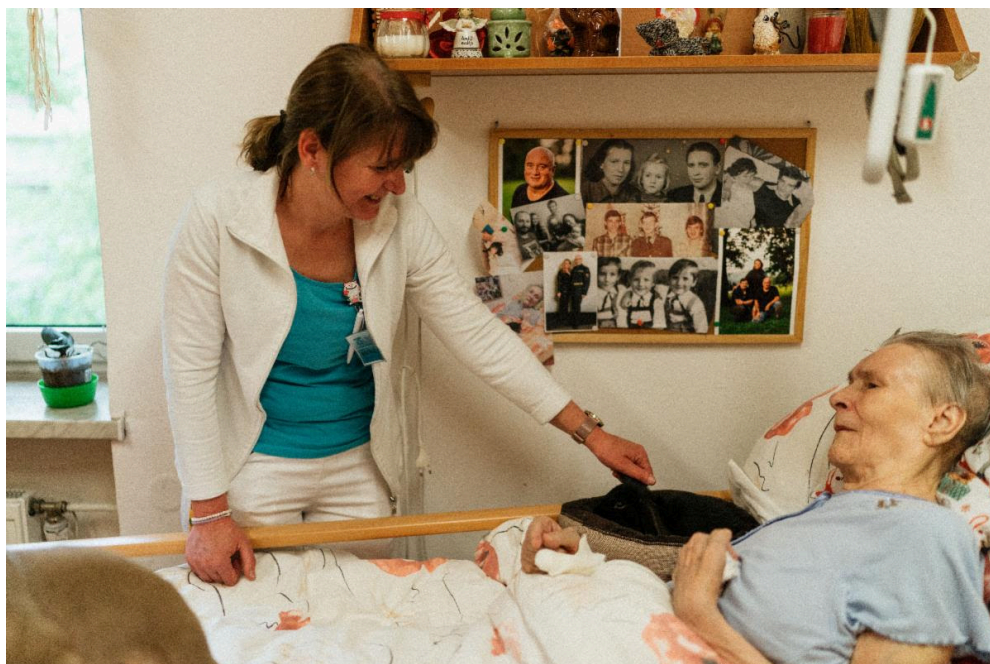
“It is the will of God, the Church's founder, that all the sheep should eventually gather into this one fold, under the guidance of one shepherd. All God's children are summoned to their father's only home, and its cornerstone is Peter. All men should work together like brothers to become part of this single kingdom of God; for the citizens of that kingdom are united in peace and harmony on earth that they might enjoy eternal happiness some day in heaven.”

Pope Saint John XXIII, pray for us!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Di Camillo".

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

The Moral Mind



The True Meaning of Hospice Care

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM

The secular definition of hospice care in the US is the palliation of pain for people whose life expectancy is six months or less combined with the discontinuation of medical interventions aimed at curing underlying terminal medical conditions. Hospice care is also a defined benefit covered under the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs. Catholics understand hospice care as the compassionate and profoundly spiritual accompaniment of the dying person which includes physical, psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual care, all geared towards optimizing the end-of-life experience of patients. Although there are good secular hospice care facilities, the two do not always coincide.

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

Announcements

Fr. Tad Working Independently of the NCBC

As of October 1, 2026, Reverend Tadeusz ("Father Tad") Pacholczyk, Ph.D., is continuing his work in the field of bioethics independently of The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC).

His bioethics ministry continues alongside a pastoral assignment as part-time Parochial Vicar in the Diocese of Fall River.

To read more about Fr. Tad's accomplishments and contributions to the NCBC, click [here](#).



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

Celebrate Respect Life Month!

October is Respect Life Month and the US Bishops have chosen "Mary, Mother of Life" as the 2026 theme.

To observe the occasion, the USCCB's Secretariat of Pro-life Activities has created [materials](#) that help Catholics understand and value the gift of human life and build a culture that cherishes and protects it. Helpful resources include a Novena, Leader Toolkits, and promotional materials.



For this year's Respect Life Month, Bishop Daniel Thomas, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, is **calling** on Catholics to **join the movement** aimed at stemming the increase in abortions due to the availability of abortion pills.

Mental Health Awareness Month

October is Mental Health Awareness Month and the US Bishops have put together resources for Catholics and anyone struggling with their mental health.

Visit the National Catholic Mental Health Campaign to **learn more**.

Bishop Conley Sees AI Changes as 'Massive Opportunity' for Catholic Healthcare

NCBC board member Bishop James Conley believes that Catholic medical professionals "have a golden opportunity to remember our traditional Catholic understanding of healthcare and make a case for it to the world. The very nature of healthcare itself is explicitly up for cultural grabs."

Read more by clicking **here**.

Upcoming NCBC 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](https://diobr.org/rlc-event).

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

Edward Furton, PhD, MA



Edward J. Furton has served as the NCBC Director of Publications since August 1997. He is the founding editor of *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* which first appeared in Spring of 2001. He is also the longest serving editor of *Ethics & Medics*, a monthly commentary on health care and the life

sciences, in continuous publication since 1976. These serials are the standard bearers for Catholic bioethical thought in the United States and have hosted award-winning authors on subjects ranging from abortion to xenotransplantation. He is responsible for the production of books on contemporary topics in Catholic bioethics, most notably, *Catholic Health Care Ethics: A Manual for Practitioners*.

Dr. Furton received his bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from The Catholic University of America. He has taught at St. Charles Borromeo Theological Seminary in Philadelphia and at various Catholic colleges on the East Coast and in the Midwest. He has written on stem cell research, reproductive technologies, vaccine use, brain death, organ donation, physician-assisted suicide, and other topics. He regularly gives presentations on complex problems in cooperation and is especially interested in scholasticism, its method of reasoning, and its role within the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Book an NCBC Speaker for Your Event.

Education Corner



The NCBC is holding 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 10 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

New Revised Catholic Guide to Palliative Care & Hospice Available

With a growing number of states considering or legalizing assisted suicide, this new brief but clear guide seeks to overcome confusion about palliative care and hospice.



You'll find definitions of what palliative and hospice care are, identification of the services each offers, and an explanation of the similarities and differences between them. The guide also identifies ethical challenges facing the hospice field.

To download the updated guide, click [here](#).
To order print copies of the guide, click [here](#).

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

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

Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services

Seventh Edition

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

[Purchase NCBC Books and Resources](#)

Bioethics and Public Policy

Bioethics Public Policy Report

Here you can find the NCBC's most recent [update on public policy](#) developments in bioethics and health care on the state, federal, and international levels.

Significant developments include a New Mexico case involving the estate of an aborted child recovering a settlement for wrongful death; Virginia's bishops calling for prayer and fasting in response to state referenda on abortion, marriage, and more; and Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas suing New York, California, and Massachusetts over their respective abortion "shield laws."

Also of note, the [NCBC joined](#) the National Association of Catholic Nurses and the Catholic Medical Association to submit a public comment in favor of the FDA updating language in Title 21 to clarify "that there are only two biological sexes, male and female, because

this clarity upholds the dignity and truth of the human person, which is paramount to effective health care."

From Our Institutional Members

UMary Announces 5th Annual Medical Professionals Conference



Attendees at the 2025 St. Gianna Medical Professionals Conference. Credit: University of Mary.

Bismarck, ND
December 4-5, 2026

The University of Mary cordially invites all who are interested to attend the 5th annual Saint Gianna Medical Professionals Conference at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, on December 4–5, 2026.

This year's theme is *Accompanying the Vulnerable: Catholic Bioethics in a Time of Technological Change*. Sessions will address artificial intelligence, genetic technology, end-of-life care, reproductive grief, caregiver resilience, and the enduring dignity of the human person.

The conference is intended for health care professionals, educators, clergy, students, ethicists, and mission leaders. Continuing education credit is available for several health professions, including physicians, nurses, physical therapists,

occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists.

Registration is [open](#), and space is limited.

[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.

Notre Dame to Honor Hawthorne Dominican Sisters



Mother Marie Edward, O.P., gives a flag to a veteran living at Rosary Hill Home.

Credit: Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne.

Notre Dame, Indiana
April 24, 2027

The University of Notre Dame's de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture is proud to announce that the sixteenth annual Notre Dame *Evangelium Vitae* Medal, the nation's most important award for heroes of the pro-life movement, will be awarded to the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne.

The medal will be presented to the mother superior, Mother Marie Edward, O.P., on behalf of the Sisters at a special Mass and dinner at Notre Dame on Saturday, April 24, 2027. The Hawthorne Dominicans are members of NCBC and spend their lives caring for poor people who have terminal diagnoses at their hospice homes, Rosary Hill and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, following the example of their foundress, Venerable Mother Alphonsa.

This past year they stepped into the national spotlight by [suing](#) the state of New York over its requirements that the sisters and other medical professionals take LGBTQ training to maintain their nursing licenses, use pronouns, and place biological men claiming to be women in rooms with elderly females.

To read more about the award and the Hawthorne Dominicans, 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](#).



The poster for the Converging Roads Catholic Medical Ethics Conference features a red background with a faint image of a stethoscope. At the top, the Converging Roads logo is displayed. The main title, 'CATHOLIC MEDICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE', is in large white letters. Below this, a box lists 'UPCOMING CONFERENCES' with details for two events: one on October 17 in Omaha, NE, titled 'The Future of Human Dignity', and another on November 7 in Milwaukee, WI, titled 'Catholic Social Doctrine in Medicine'. To the right of the box, it states 'CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AVAILABLE' and 'ATTEND ONLINE OR IN PERSON!'. At the bottom, it directs visitors to 'CONVERGINGROADS.COM' to learn more. The St. John Paul II Foundation logo is at the very bottom.

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

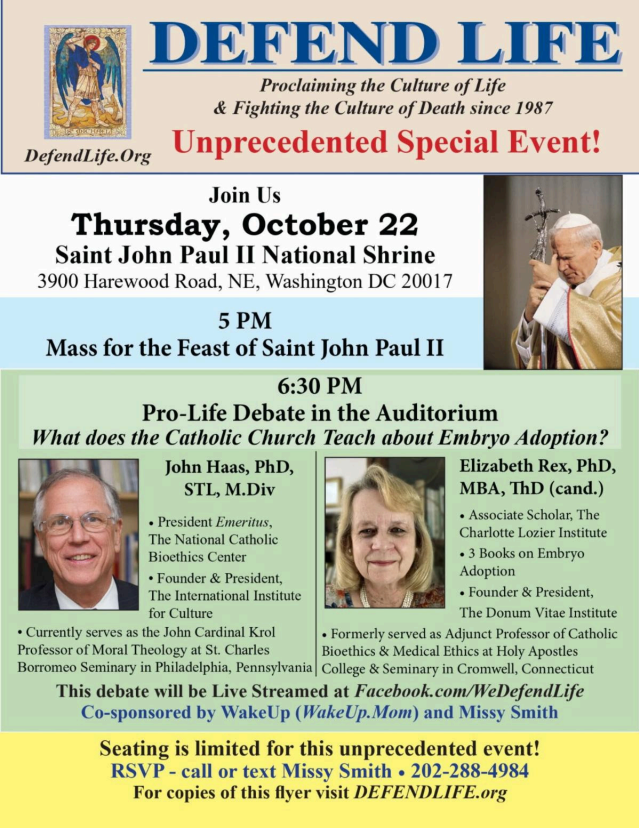
ATTEND ONLINE OR IN PERSON!

VISIT
CONVERGINGROADS.COM
TO LEARN MORE

St. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

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](#).



DEFEND LIFE
Proclaiming the Culture of Life
& Fighting the Culture of Death since 1987
Unprecedented Special Event!
DefendLife.Org

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

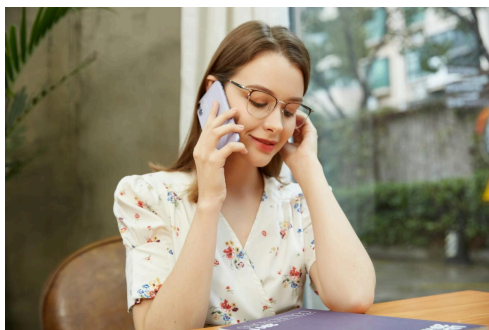
Seating is limited for this unprecedented event!
RSVP - call or text Missy Smith • 202-288-4984
For copies of this flyer visit [DEFENDLIFE.org](https://www.DefendLife.org)

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](#).

Free NCBC Ethics Consults

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](#)

Support the NCBC

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



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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