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Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

The NCBC <info@ncbcenter.org> Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 1:02 PM
Reply-To: info@ncbcenter.org
To: prolife@archkck.org

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

Biweekly Ethics Update

From the President



Dear friend of the NCBC,

In this Respect Life Month, we pray and act in a particular way to support human life from conception to natural death. As November approaches, we turn our attention to life after death: all the saints in heaven and the holy souls in purgatory.

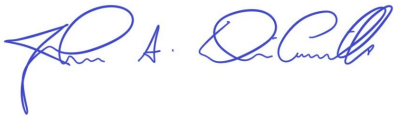
The NCBC will have prayers and Masses offered for the souls of all the departed who have supported or benefitted from our mission and work, including benefactors, persons named in memorial donations, board members, past employees, family members of our staff, and those whom we have assisted through our ethics consultations. If there is a departed soul you would like us to include, please send the name to **prayers@ncbcenter.org.**

In this newsletter, I am pleased to draw your attention to some good news on the public policy front from senior ethicist Dr. Marie Hilliard. Following input from the NCBC and colleague agencies, the Department of Health and Human Services has called for accountability for harms to minors from sex-rejecting interventions. Other victories include two decisions of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) defending employees from religious discrimination.

I also invite you to read an article in *Catholic World Report* by Michael J. Miller, co-translator of the NCBC's English edition of Cardinal Elio Sgreccia's *Personal Bioethics.* Mr. Miller offers an important reminder of the dignity of the unborn child through a brief historical and philosophical review of the expert testimony of the Venerable Jerome Lejeune, distinguished medical doctor and world-renowned geneticist, in support of a human life amendment in 1974.

All holy saints of God, intercede for us! And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

In His Sacred Heart,



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

Bioethics and Public Policy

NCBC Public Policy Wins

By Dr. Marie T. Hilliard, Senior Ethicist

The NCBC continues to experience successes in advancing human life and dignity through its **public policy advocacy**.

In September 2025 the NCBC **responded** to the Federal Trade Commission's call for public comment on the potentially deceptive

medical practices surrounding so called "gender-affirming care" for minors.



Several months later the NCBC **urged** the American Psychological Association (APA) to align its guidance in addressing gender dysphoria with the evidence-based guidance of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services' (HHS) document, ***Treatment for Pediatric Gender Dysphoria: Review Evidence and Best Practices***, rather than the APA's endorsement of gender-affirming practices.

Following this advocacy by the NCBC and colleague agencies, HHS **issued a demand** to medical organizations to have them answer for the harm done to minors by sex-rejecting procedures.

The NCBC is grateful to the federal government for hearing the NCBC's urgings for public policies which respect, not violate, the human life and dignity of those suffering with gender incongruence.

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.

Highlights include several states considering referenda on protecting abortion in their constitutions, while Missouri seeks to repeal a previous referrenda that did the same; and the EEOC deciding two cases of religious discrimination in favor of employees.

Also of note, the European and American bishops' conference have both made moves to influence the development of artificial intelligence in ways that place it at the service of the human person.

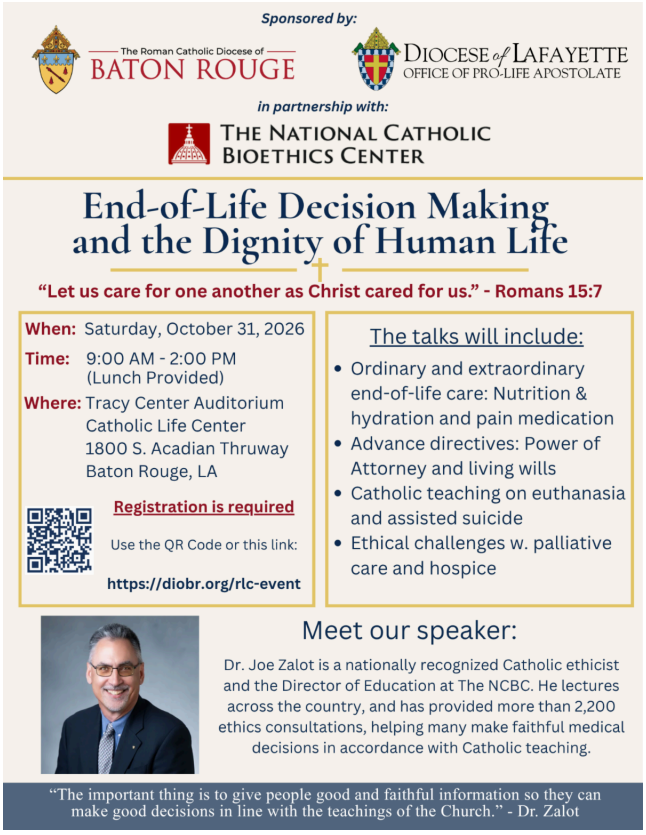
To read more, click **here**.

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**.



Sign Up for NCBC Education Programs

NCBC Speaker Highlight

Phil Tran, MS



Phil is The National Catholic Bioethics Center's Manager of Ethics Operations & Resources. In this role, he manages the NCBC's longstanding 24/7 free personal ethics consultation service, serves as a staff ethicist, oversees its Fellows & Interns Program, stewards membership programs, directs information technology, and ensures organizational integration and operational efficiency. He

has been fielding ethics consultations for the NCBC since 2023, having responded to over 450 ethics consultations.

Phil graduated *summa cum laude* from Saint Vincent College with undergraduate degrees in philosophy and theology in 2020. While there, he wrote a thesis addressing the concept of personhood in bioethics. He completed the NCBC's National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics in 2022. He then went on to earn his master of science degree in bioethics from the University of Mary in 2023, where he graduated *magna cum laude* and completed a capstone project addressing the inadequacies of principlism in end-of-life care. He can speak on various bioethical topics, having particular experience addressing the concept of personhood.

Book an NCBC Speaker for Your Event

NCBC Publications

New Revised *Catholic Guide to Palliative Care & Hospice* Available



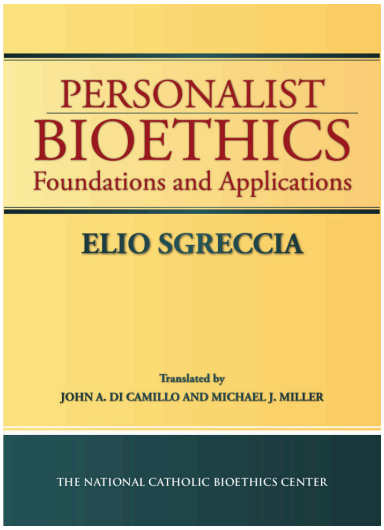
With a growing number of states considering or legalizing assisted suicide, this new brief but clear guide seeks to overcome confusion about palliative care and hospice.

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**.

Personalist Bioethics: Foundations and Applications

By Cardinal Elio Sgreccia



$34.95

Personalist Bioethics, the English translation of Elio Cardinal Sgreccia's Italian masterwork, advances "ontologically grounded personalism" in bioethics, that is, ethics built through reason upon the objective value and dignity of every human person.

To buy *Personalist Bioethics,* click **here.**

Purchase NCBC Books and Resources

Video, Radio, and Podcasts



Reading the Signs Podcast

Long Island, New York

Dr. Joseph Meaney joins the Dr. Jim Dolan and Rick Henshaw's podcast to discuss various bioethics topics, including *in vitro* fertilization (IVF).

Watch the podcast by clicking **here.**

From Our Partner Institutions

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.

CHCLA Hosting Health Care & AI Conference



This one-day event brings together leading experts to discuss the implications of Pope Leo XIV's new encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* on Catholic health care.

We will spend time exploring and discussing how technology and artificial intelligence should be properly utilized in light of the Catholic Church's teachings on protecting the dignity of the human person.

We will also examine the latest technologies and artificial intelligence applications that can assist Catholic health care professionals in supporting their practices and those they serve in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Seats are filling quickly—reserve your spot today and join us in advancing Christ's healing mission in health care!

Register Here

For questions or additional information, please contact **info@catholichealthalliance.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**.

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.

Catholic Ethicists Debate Morality of Embryo Adoption

EWTN News

Can embryo adoption be considered morally licit by the Catholic Church? The John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C., hosted a debate between two Catholic ethicists Oct. 22 in an event marking the feast of St. John Paul II.

Click **here** to continue reading.

The Why: Contraception, IVF, and Surrogacy

Crisis Magazine

Many Catholics accept contraception, IVF, and surrogacy not because they reject Church teaching but because no one has ever explained why these things are wrong. It's time to change that.

To continue reading, click **here**.

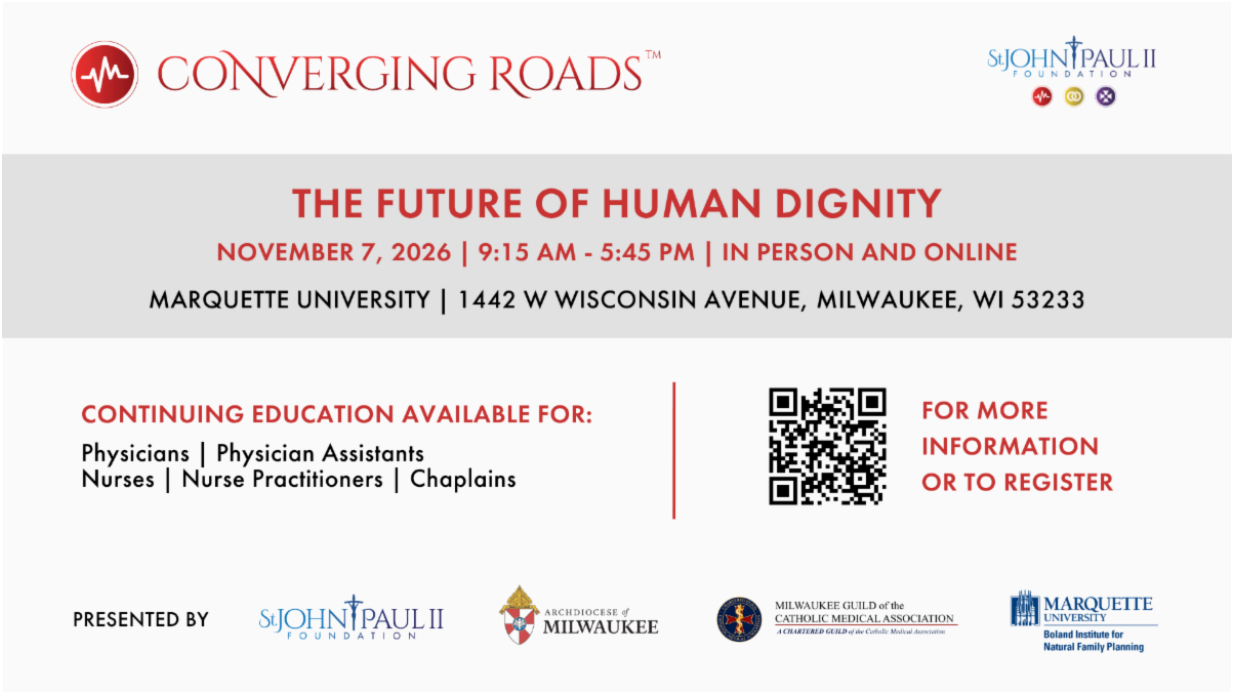
Prof. Jérôme Lejeune on Human Ethics and the Unborn Child

Catholic World Report

On May 7, 1974, less than 500 days after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the disastrous *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide, a world-renowned geneticist testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments in support of a proposed Human Life Amendment. Doctor Jérôme Lejeune had a medical practice in which he treated children with intellectual disabilities; he was also Professor of Fundamental Genetics at the Université René Descartes in Paris and an eloquent advocate for preborn human beings.

Click **here** to keep reading.

Converging Roads Conference



Converging Roads, an initiative of the **St. John Paul II Foundation**, is visiting Milwaukee to present a one-day conference on The Future of

Human Dignity. Health care professionals can obtain continuing education credits for attending and be equipped to practice the highest ethical and medical standards of their profession.

Registration is open for their Nov. 7 conference in Milwaukee, where NCBC Director of Education Joe Zalot will be speaking on Human Dignity and Human Flourishing in Medicine.

For more information, please click **here**.

From the NCBC Archives

Making Sense of Bioethics

Destroying My Freedom — in the Name of Freedom?

By Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

In an August 2015 column in The Washington Post, George F. Will argued in favor of physician-assisted suicide, summing up his perspective this way: “There is nobility in …affirming at the end the distinctive human dignity of autonomous choice.”

His conclusion, however, raises several important questions: Shouldn’t death-dealing actions directed against ourselves be seen as a deep repudiation of our autonomy, insofar as suicide eliminates our personal freedom once and for all? If our ability to freely make choices is among the highest of our human faculties, isn’t it a radical contradiction to mount an attack on that autonomy through suicidal acts? Isn’t there a certain absurdity to marshaling our freedom to obliterate our freedom?

To continue reading, click **here**.

Free 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



The NCBC's President, Dr. John DiCamillo, greets Pope Leo XIV.

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!

Donate

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.

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