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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, Nov 10, 2026 at 1:30 PM

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

Biweekly Ethics Update

From the President

Dear friend of the NCBC,



The Church devotes the month of November to praying for the souls of the faithful departed. We are also reminded of the importance of our final moments on this earth, which set our trajectory for eternity. It is an opportune time to reflect on the long tradition of the *ars moriendi*, the art of dying.

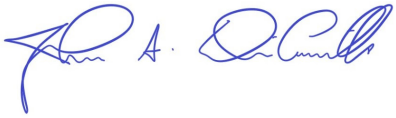
The NCBC is having prayers and Masses offered for the deceased throughout the month. *Requiescant in pace.* If there is a departed soul you would like us to include, please send the name to **prayers@ncbcenter.org**. There are still 20 days left of prayers and Masses this month.

In this newsletter, Dr. Marie Hilliard shares good news on the NCBC's role in the protection of the religious liberty and conscience rights of health care professionals. Dr. Joseph Meaney speaks on *EWTN News In Depth* about surrogacy and its harms.

Finally, I call your attention to an upcoming symposium on artificial intelligence and the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, organized by the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance.

God bless you and your loved ones. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

In His Sacred Heart,

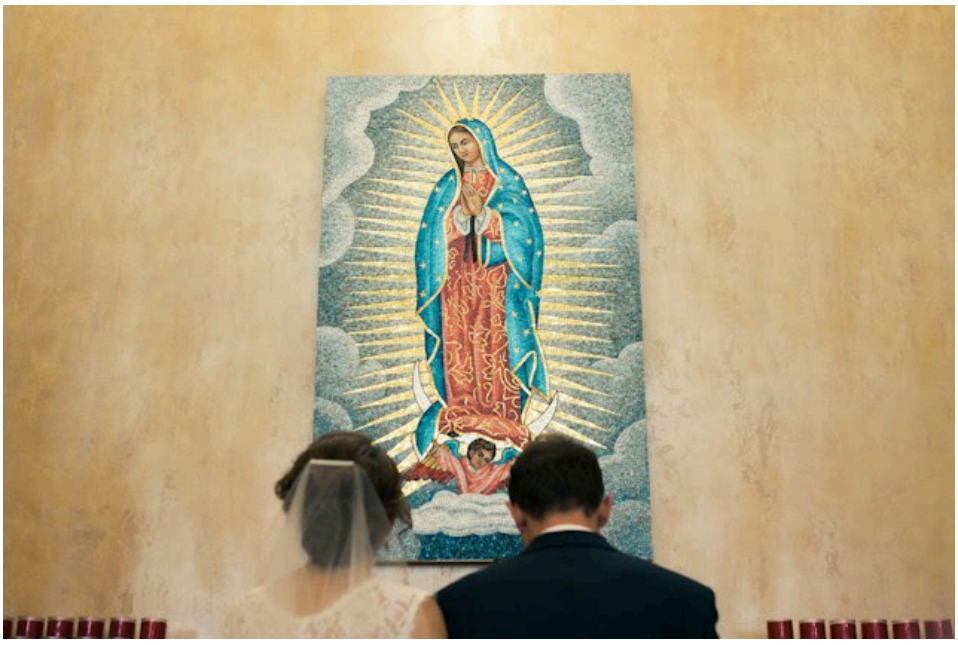


John A. Di Camillo, PhD, BeL
President
The National Catholic Bioethics Center

The Moral Mind

The Inseparability Principle in Catholic Bioethics

By Dr. Joseph Meaney, Senior Ethicist



An important concept in Catholic bioethics used in the evaluation of contraception and artificial reproductive technologies (ART) is the inseparability principle. This was most famously affirmed by Pope St. Paul VI in his landmark encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*. In paragraph 12 he states the following: “This particular doctrine, often expounded by the magisterium of the Church, is based on the inseparable connection, established by God, which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act.” Pope Paul VI rejected the overemphasis on the circumstances surrounding the marital act that led “proportionalists” to justify separating these two meanings. Ultimately, these dissenters abandoned the very idea of intrinsically immoral acts.

To continue reading, click **here**.

Bioethics and Public Policy

NCBC Public Policy Wins

By Dr. Marie T. Hilliard, Senior Ethicist

Valerie Kloosterman, a Christian physician assistant, was terminated from the University of Michigan Health West (UMHW) system because she refused to undergo mandatory gender identity training.



Both Kloosterman’s religious beliefs and her medical knowledge prevented her from supporting transgender interventions through the use of pronouns inconsistent with a person’s biological sex.

“All I wanted to do was provide the best care possible to my patients without being forced to violate my Christian beliefs,” Kloosterman explained.

The NCBC filed an *amicus curiae* brief in support of Kloosterman's suit against the University because her termination, due to her religious beliefs, was a violation of the Free Exercise Clause, Equal Protection, and Title VII of the *Civil Rights Act*.

The NCBC has a strong interest in protecting Christian healthcare workers from being forced to cooperate in medical interventions which violate their consciences. Following the filing of our *amicus* brief, a settlement was reached in July 2026 for Ms. Kloosterman, a major win for the NCBC in protecting the rights of Christian medical professionals.

The settlement **requires** UMHW to create a religious accommodation policy in accordance with the law, notify and train all its employees, grant reasonable religious accommodations without retaliation, and pay $410,000 in damages and fees to Ms. Kloosterman and her attorneys.

Religious protections for healthcare workers are fundamental, and this win for the NCBC, and the Christian healthcare community as a whole, is significant in setting the precedent of enforcing existing religious protections for healthcare workers who wish to follow their closely-held religious beliefs in the workplace.

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.

This edition provides a round-up of election results on state-level referenda, another case of a parent receiving compensation for their child being aborted without proper consent, and international developments related to protecting life at every stage.

To read more, click **here**.

NCBC Speaker Highlight

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM



Catholic Bioethicist and International Pro-Life Expert

Dr. Joseph Meaney is Past President and Senior Ethicist with The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC). He has spent over 28 years speaking and going on missions in 82 countries. His experience working with the NCBC and with Human Life International as director of international coordination have covered a vast array of pro-life and ethical issues. He is a dual US and French citizen and is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Italian. He can do speaking engagements in all these languages.

Dr. Meaney is a dynamic speaker available to address banquets and motivational and educational events on the topics of abortion/assisted suicide, conscience rights, end-of-life care, ethical approaches to treating infertility, AI ethics, and Catholic bioethics. He has been a frequent guest on EWTN television programs and Relevant Radio and writes a popular ethics column called The Moral Mind.

Book an NCBC Speaker for Your Event

NCBC Publications

The Art of Dying

from $19.95

The medicalization of dying, with its disregard for the vital importance of sacramental life for those who face imminent death, prompts the return of *Ars moriendi*, or *The Art of Dying*.

This widely influential fifteenth-century text was designed to guide dying persons and their loved ones in Catholic religious practices at a time when access to priests and the sacraments was similarly limited.



This remarkable and inspiring work, translated by Father Columba Thomas, OP, serves as a valuable resource for Catholics today, encouraging their full participation in the rich sacramental and liturgical tradition of the Church and challenging them to keep their eyes fixed on Christ and the promise of eternal life with him.

To order the *The Art of Dying*, click **here**.

Three End-of-Life Guides for November



November marks the month in which the Church dedicates herself to praying for the dead and the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

With that in mind, the NCBC is highlighting three resources it has created for those facing concerns that arise toward the end of life.

A Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decisions
To download a digital copy, click **here**.
To order print copies of the guide, click **here**.

Revised Catholic Guide to Palliative Care & Hospice
To download the updated guide, click **here**.
To order print copies of the guide, click **here**.

A Catholic Guide to Physicians' Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment
To download a digital copy, click **here**.
To order print copies of the guide, click **here**.

Purchase NCBC Books and Resources

Video, Radio, and Podcasts



EWTN News In Depth

Washington, D.C.

Dr. Joseph Meaney appeared in an *EWTN News In Depth* feature that explores the hidden harms associated with surrogacy and tells the story of a woman who became a surrogate under false pretenses. Her message to women considering it: "Don't do it. You're selling your soul."

Dr. Meaney explains the Church's teaching on surrogacy and how the U.S. is an outlier in not regulating the practice at the federal level.

To watch the episode, click **here.**

NCBC in the News

Karen Quinlan and the Right to Die

Catholic Stand Magazine

Noting that Catholics spend the month of November praying for those who have died and the Holy Souls in Purgatory, *Catholic Stand Magazine* recalls the case of Karen Quinlan, a 21-year-old who was in a persistent vegetative state. The article goes on to examine how Catholics should understand treatments that are extraordinary versus ordinary, citing the NCBC's guidance.

To read more, click **here**.

Podcast Episode: “Finding Hope Amidst Infertility and Loss”

Ready, Willing & Able podcast

As part of In the latest episode of the “Ready, Willing, & Able” podcast, host Genevieve Anatalio engages in a heartfelt conversation with Ann Koshute, co-founder of the Springs in the Desert ministry of accompaniment for infertility and loss, about navigating these experiences through a lens of faith.

To see additional resources, click **here**.

From Our Partner Institutions

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**.

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.

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 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.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. HONOR YOUR FAITH.

Click on this banner or go to: MyCatholicwill.com/NCBCENTER

MyCatholicWill

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.

Sign Up for NCBC Membership

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