

Converging Roads – Diocese of Grand Rapids
Saturday, March 4, 2023 | Aquinas College

FUNDAMENTAL CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE: FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END OF LIFE

7:30 AM	CHECK-IN/BREAKFAST BEGINS
8:10 AM	OPENING REMARKS Susie Lopez
8:20 – 9:20 AM	DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON: IMAGE OF GOD, FREEDOM, AND CONSCIENCE Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD
9:25 – 10:25 AM	WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN: THE SCIENCE Maureen L. Condic, PhD
10:25 – 10:40 AM	BREAK
10:40 – 11:40 AM	AN INTRODUCTION TO FERTILITY AWARENESS BASED METHODS Speaker TBA
11:40 AM – 1:20 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
12:15 – 1:15 PM	VOCATION OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Kristin M. Collier, MD, FACP
1:15 – 1:20 PM	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
1:20 – 1:40 PM	BREAK
1:20 – 2:10 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
1:40 – 2:40 PM	DECISION MAKING AT THE END OF LIFE Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD
2:45 – 3:45 PM	REDEMPTIVE MEANING OF HUMAN SUFFERING Natalie King, MD, MA
3:45 – 3:55 PM	BREAK
3:55 – 4:55 PM	THE ETHICAL CHALLENGES IN ACCOMPANYING WOMEN WITH HOLISTIC MEDICAL CARE Kristin M. Collier, MD, FACP and Natalie King, MD, MA
4:55 – 5:10 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:30 – 6:30 PM	VIGIL MASS Celebrant: Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, J.C.D., Diocese of Grand Rapids
6:30 – 7:15 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

Updated as of January 25, 2023
**Schedule is subject to change*

Converging Roads™ is an initiative of the St. John Paul II Foundation.

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THE VOCATION OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Kristin M. Collier, MD, FACP

This presentation will focus on the need for the practice of virtue for all health care professionals. It will identify the essential virtues for the health care worker, discuss the role of faith in the vocation of the health care professional, analyze some of the root causes of burnout among health care professionals, and explain how saintly physicians such as St. Giuseppe Moscati and St. Gianna Molla serve as models of the virtues needed for patient care.

DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON: IMAGE OF GOD, FREEDOM, AND CONSCIENCE

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD

This presentation will address the origins of human dignity and why human life is considered sacred. There will be theological, philosophical, and natural law principles which assist the speaker in drawing these conclusions. It will define the dignity of the human person based upon Christian anthropology, discuss the relationship between freedom and conscience in relationship to the flourishing of the human person and its implications for the practice of medicine, and consider how a proper understanding of human dignity affects health care.

WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN: THE SCIENCE

Maureen L. Condic, PhD

This presentation will present the science regarding the beginning of life. Empirical, biological, and experiential data will be utilized to develop an argument for when life begins. Current arguments against the belief that life begins at conception and the scientific response will be addressed. It will examine the scientific evidence to address the question of when life begins, discuss the implications for medical ethics based upon human embryonic development, and explore the arguments that deny the personhood and dignity of the human being at varying stages of life.

AN INTRODUCTION TO FERTILITY AWARENESS BASED METHODS

Speaker TBA

This presentation will discuss how to support couples and families when infertility is their reality. The options and best practices for these families will be described. It will identify the varying types of Fertility Awareness Based Methods (FABMs) and discuss the science behind FABMs, explain how FABMs can be effective in helping couples achieve pregnancy, and describes cases in which FABMs has been utilized as a form of restorative reproductive medicine.

DECISION MAKING AT THE END OF LIFE

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD

This presentation will identify the ethical issues related to end of life care and evaluate the argumentation in favor of and against physician assisted suicide and euthanasia, differentiate the criteria between proportionate and disproportionate care at the end of life, and discuss difficult situations related to end of life care such as artificial nutrition and hydration.

REDEMPTIVE MEANING OF HUMAN SUFFERING

Natalie King, MD, MA

This presentation will discuss the meaning of human suffering and how health care professionals can walk with patients at the end of life and bring hope. It will discuss how to help patients and their families mature through suffering, consider and define compassion in the care of patients and their families, and explore the role of hope and how to foster hope appropriately within the patients and families served.

THE ETHICAL CHALLENGES IN ACCOMPANYING WOMEN WITH HOLISTIC MEDICAL CARE

Panel: Kristin Collier, MD, FACP; Natalie King, MD, MA

This presentation will explore the ethical issues related to the medical care of women that secures physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. It will discuss the unique aspects of providing health care to women, propose an integral view of the human person as essential for comprehensive and holistic medical care for women, and explore medical care that respects the unique ways women bring life, love, and their feminine genius into the world.