

Converging Roads – Diocese of Charlotte
Saturday, March 16, 2024 | The Cathedral of Saint Patrick

COMPASSION FOR THE SICK & DYING

7:30 AM	CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION BEGINS
8:00 AM	WHITE MASS Celebrant: Abbot Placid Solari, OSB
9:15 AM	OPENING REMARKS Susie Saenz
9:25 – 10:25 AM	LEGAL TRENDS IN ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA Lucia A. Silecchia, JD
10:30 – 11:30 AM	NAVIGATING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY CARE Deacon Alan Rastrelli, MD
11:30 – 11:45 AM	BREAK
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	REVISITING THE NEUROLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR BRAIN DEATH Michel Accad, MD
12:45 – 2:25 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
1:20 – 2:20 PM	SACRAMENTAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE FOR THE SICK AND DYING Rev. Cory Catron, MDiv, MA, MS; Deacon Alan Rastrelli, MD; and more
2:20 – 2:25 PM	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
2:25 – 2:45 PM	BREAK
2:30 – 3:15 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
2:45 – 3:45 PM	ETHICAL CONCERNS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY William Sullivan, MD, CCFP(COE), PhD
3:45 – 4:45 PM	DISCERNING DIFFICULT DECISIONS AT THE END OF LIFE Rev. Matthew P. Schneider, LC; and more
4:45 – 5:00 PM	BREAK
5:00 – 6:00 PM	PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE FOR NEWBORNS AND INFANTS Jessica Clarke-Pounder, MD, FAAP
6:00 – 6:05 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
6:10 – 6:45 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

Converging Roads – Diocese of Charlotte
Saturday, March 16, 2024 | The Cathedral of Saint Patrick

COMPASSION FOR THE SICK & DYING

LEGAL TRENDS IN ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA

Lucia A. Silecchia, JD

This presentation will explore the legal trends in physician-assisted suicide in the U.S. and North Carolina. Key legal developments that have affected care for human dignity and life will be reviewed and specific ways in which the medical community can address physician-assisted suicide in their respective areas of medicine will be identified.

NAVIGATING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY CARE

Deacon Alan Rastrelli, MD

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. Differentiating the criteria between ordinary (proportionate) and extraordinary (disproportionate) care, ethical issues related to end of life care and the argument for and against physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia will be identified and discussed.

REVISITING THE NEUROLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR BRAIN DEATH

Michel Accad, MD

This presentation will consider the medical criteria and signs of death and consider the dead donor rule and donation of unpaired vital organs. Death and the present criteria for brain death will be defined, differentiating between the different viewpoints regarding the definition of brain death from the present philosophical and medical literature. The present debate to revise the definition of whole-brain death will be discussed, including case studies that are helpful in critically examining the current definition.

SACRAMENTAL AND SPIRITUAL CARE FOR THE SICK AND DYING

Rev. Cory Catron, MDiv, MA, MS; Deacon Alan Rastrelli, MD; and more

This panel will provide an overview of the unique Christian understanding of suffering, anthropology, and death and explore how to provide

sacramental and spiritual care to patients and their families. Illuminating the role of the sacraments and prayer as part of essential pastoral care of the sick, ways in which health care providers can support the administration of the sacraments will be outlined with emphasis given to the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

ETHICAL CONCERNS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY

William Sullivan, MD, PhD

This presentation will explore the medical and ethical notion of quality of life, considering to what degree disabilities and age have an impact on whether medical interventions should be pursued. It will address unique considerations of medical care for patients with disabilities and the elderly and the growing concerns relating to the rise of ableism in relation to quality of life.

DISCERNING DIFFICULT DECISIONS AT THE END OF LIFE

Rev. Matthew P. Schneider, LC; and more

This panel will examine unique ethical aspects of care associated with patients who are dying and decisions made toward the end of life pertaining to the role of artificial nutrition and hydration, palliative care, and advance directives. Discussion will include the ethical implications of withholding or withdrawing food and fluids, principles that guide decision-making when patients are no longer aggressively seeking care as well as the advantages and disadvantages of directive documents (such as DNR and POLST) and their impact on the course of treatment and care.

PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE FOR NEWBORNS AND INFANTS

Jessica Clarke-Pounder, MD, FAAP

This presentation will explore the palliative strategies and their ethical implications associated with end of life care for newborns and infants. Recognizing that ethical issues associated with the care of newborns and infant patients may differ from the same kind of care at other stages of life, it will consider best practices for communicating diagnoses with parents and caregivers and how to best offer support to families.