

Converging Roads – Houston, TX
Saturday, April 20, 2024 | Cathedral High School

COMPASSION AND DIGNITY IN HEALTH CARE

7:30 AM	CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION BEGINS
8:00 AM	MASS
9:15 AM	OPENING REMARKS
9:25 – 10:25 AM	HOPE AND THE REDEMPTIVE MEANING OF SUFFERING Roland Millare, STD
10:30 – 11:30 AM	WISE AND HOPEFUL PREPARATION FOR THE END OF LIFE Rev. Columba Thomas OP, MD; Phuc Vo, DO; and Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD
11:30 – 11:45 AM	BREAK
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	A VIRTUOUS APPROACH TO VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF VACCINES Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD
12:45 – 2:25 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
1:20 – 2:20 PM	CARE FOR THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Rev. Columba Thomas, OP, MD
2:20 – 2:25 PM	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
2:25 – 2:45 PM	BREAK
2:25 – 3:10 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
2:45 – 3:45 PM	UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN LIGHT OF A CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY Joseph Dutkowsky, MD
3:45 – 3:55 PM	BREAK
3:55 – 4:55 PM	ENCOUNTERING MERCY AND GRACE WITHIN PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE Brian Tullius, MD, MA (Phil.)
4:55 – 5:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:00 – 5:45 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

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HOPE AND THE REDEMPTIVE MEANING OF SUFFERING **Roland Millare, STD**

This presentation will discuss the meaning of human suffering and how health care professionals can walk with patients through it. It will explore the role of hope and how to foster it appropriately within the patients and families served. It will evaluate how narrative medicine can assist in accompanying patients and being a compassionate presence in the midst of suffering.

WISE AND HOPEFUL PREPARATION FOR THE END OF LIFE **Rev. Columba Thomas, OP, MD; Phuc Vo, DO; Brian Tullius, MD, MA (Philosophy)**

This presentation will provide information about the importance of spiritual preparation for the end of a person's life, assisting the individual and family to move with peace, comfort and love into the final stage of life here on earth. It will identify specific measures which can assist patients to embrace peace and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of advance planning documents for future medical needs.

CARE FOR THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL **Rev. Columba Thomas OP, MD**

This presentation will inform health care professionals of the importance of securing their own health, clarifying the truth of what it means to be human. It will describe the truth of the body, the mind, and the spirit, and religion's role in upholding the dignity of the whole person. It will also discuss how "healing thyself" must take place within a genuine relationship between patients and physicians, and physicians with peers.

A VIRTUOUS APPROACH TO VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF VACCINES

Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD

This presentation will offer an overview of the importance of vaccines and vaccine development from a medical, legal, and ethical perspective. It will consider the legal right and responsibilities of the state and individual relative to vaccination in light of virtue and the common good. It will also discuss the topic of moral cooperation in relationship to development and use of vaccines.

UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN LIGHT OF A CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY

Joseph Dutkowsky, MD

This presentation will explore current societal attitudes and actions towards persons with disabilities including their historical development. The concept of ableism will be defined, explored, and uncovered. This presentation will outline how these developments and the rise of ableism affect quality of care given by health care providers. It will highlight the importance of a fundamental Christian anthropology to serve the best interests of persons with disabilities and their families to ensure that all persons are treated with dignity and respect.

ENCOUNTERING MERCY AND GRACE WITHIN PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE

Brian Tullius, MD, MA (Phil.)

This presentation will explore the palliative strategies and their ethical implications associated with the care of pediatric patients. It will evaluate case studies that offer practical examples of clinical and pastoral care for patients and their families.