

Converging Roads – Diocese of Grand Rapids
Saturday, March 29, 2025 | Aquinas College

HEALTH CARE & HUMAN DIGNITY

8:30 AM	CHECK-IN/BREAKFAST BEGINS
9:00 – 9:10 AM	OPENING REMARKS Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD
9:10 – 10:10 AM	NAVIGATING MORAL COOPERATION IN MEDICINE Sr. Michaela Serpa, FSE, MA, PharmD, BCPS
10:10 – 10:20 AM	BREAK
10:20 – 11:20 AM	RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD
11:20 – 11:30 AM	BREAK
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS Anthony Isacco, PhD
12:30 – 2:05 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
1:00 – 2:00 PM	THE WELL-FORMED CONSCIENCE OF A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Speakers TBA
2:00 – 2:05 PM PROFESSIONAL	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE
2:05 – 2:25 PM	BREAK
2:05 – 2:45 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
2:25 – 3:25 PM	GENDER DYSPHORIA: SCIENCE, IDEOLOGY, AND ETHICS Paul Hruz, MD, PhD
3:25 – 3:35 PM	BREAK
3:35 – 4:35 PM	APPROACHING GENDER DYSPHORIA WITH COMPASSION AND MERCY Paul Hruz, MD, PhD; Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD; Sr. Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE, LPC
4:35 – 4:45 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:00 – 6:00 PM	VIGIL MASS Celebrant: Very Rev. David J. Walkowiak, JCD
6:00 – 6:45 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

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NAVIGATING MORAL COOPERATION IN MEDICINE Sr. Michaela Serpa, FSE, MA, PharmD, BCPS

This presentation will discuss the importance of the principle of moral cooperation and how it is applied within the practice of medicine.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD, Pediatrician

This presentation will explore religious liberty and rights of conscience and consider how to best handle potential conflicts that have bearing on conscience rights and patient care.

A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Anthony Isacco, PhD, Professor, Director of Training for PsyD Program, Chatham University

This presentation will assess the causes of the present mental health crisis and discuss the unique way in which Catholic hospitals and health care providers can address the situation.

THE WELL-FORMED CONSCIENCE OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Speakers TBA

This panel will discuss the importance of the proper formation of the conscience for the practice of ethical medicine. Proper conscience formation will also be explained and contrasted with the current cultural understanding.

GENDER DYSPHORIA: SCIENCE, IDEOLOGY, AND ETHICS

Paul Hruz, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine

This presentation will describe the current cultural trends in the area of gender dysphoria and evaluate the medical interventions in light of current research.

APPROACHING GENDER DYSPHORIA WITH COMPASSION AND MERCY

Paul Hruz, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics, Washington University School of Medicine; Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD, Pediatrician; Sr. Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE, LPC, Executive Director, Franciscan Life Process Center

This panel will prepare the healthcare professional to provide kind and compassionate pastoral care to patients with gender dysphoria and their family members.