

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	THE WELL-FORMED CONSCIENCE OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Robin L. Pierucci, MD, MA; Sr. Michaela Serpa, FSE, MA, PharmD, BCPS; and Nicholas A. Stephanoff, MD
12:30 – 2:05 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
1:00 – 2:00 PM	A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS Anthony Isacco, PhD
2:00 – 2:05 PM	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
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 W. Hruz, MD, PhD
3:25 – 3:35 PM	BREAK
3:35 – 4:35 PM	APPROACHING GENDER DYSPHORIA WITH COMPASSION AND MERCY Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD; Sr. Colleen Ann Nagle, FSE, LPC; and Gwyneth Anne Spaeder, MD
4:35 – 4:45 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:00 – 6:00 PM	VIGIL MASS Celebrant: Most 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, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Idaho State University, College of Pharmacy

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.

THE WELL-FORMED CONSCIENCE OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

Robin L. Pierucci, MD, MA, Neonatologist and Medical Director; Sr. Michaela Serpa, FSE, MA, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Idaho State University, College of Pharmacy; and Nicholas A. Stephanoff, MD, Family Doctor and Lifestyle Medicine Specialist, Corewell Health

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.

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.

GENDER DYSPHORIA: SCIENCE, IDEOLOGY, AND ETHICS

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

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