

*Converging Roads* –Diocese of Charlotte  
Saturday, March 29, 2025 | The Cathedral of Saint Patrick

## THE FUTURE OF HUMAN DIGNITY

7:30 AM	CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION BEGINS
8:00 AM	WHITE MASS Celebrant: Abbot Placid Solari, OSB
9:15 AM	OPENING REMARKS Susie Saenz, Vice President of Operations, St. John Paul II Foundation
9:25 – 10:25 AM	HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE ETHICS OF TECHNOLOGY Jeffrey P. Bishop, MD, PhD
10:25 – 10:35 AM	BREAK
10:35 – 11:35 AM	SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF IN VITRO FERTILIZATION Jean Baric Parker, D.Be
11:35 – 11:45 AM	BREAK
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	GENETIC SCREENING, GENETIC ENGINEERING, AND HUMAN DIGNITY Caroline Aragón, MS, CGC
12:45 – 2:20 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
1:15 – 2:15 PM	HEALTH CARE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND OTHER FORMS OF TECHNOLOGY Presenter TBA
2:15 – 2:20 PM	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
2:20 – 2:40 PM	BREAK
2:20 – 3:10 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
2:40 – 3:40 PM	A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH Very Rev. James Patrick Burns, IVD, Ph.D., ABPP
3:40 – 3:50 PM	BREAK
3:50 – 4:50 PM	TECHNOLOGY AND THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN ADOLESCENTS Johann M D'Souza, PhD
4:50 – 5:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:00 – 5:45 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

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## THE FUTURE OF HUMAN DIGNITY

### HUMAN DIGNITY AND THE ETHICS OF TECHNOLOGY

Jeffrey P. Bishop, MD, PhD, Professor of Theological Studies & Tenet Endowed Chair in Bioethics at Saint Louis University

This presentation will establish the foundation of the dignity of the person as the basis for medicine. It will consider how technology, in its varying forms, presents ethical challenges for the dignity and life of the person.

### A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH

Very Rev. James Patrick Burns, IVD, Ph.D., ABPP, President & Professor of Psychology at St Mary's University of Minnesota

This presentation will explore the unique challenges and importance of securing access to mental health care for poor and vulnerable populations.

### GENETIC SCREENING, GENETIC ENGINEERING, AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Caroline Aragón, MS, CGC, Certified & Licensed Genetic Counselor

This presentation will examine the ethical questions relating to genetic screening, genetic engineering, and genetic interventions.

### SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF IN VITRO FERTILIZATION

Jean Baric Parker, D.Be, Program Director, Graduate Certificate in Catholic Bioethics

This presentation will describe the medical methodology of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) and discuss the ethical and medical concerns associated with IVF..

### HEALTH CARE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND OTHER FORMS OF TECHNOLOGY

Presenter TBA

This panel will discuss some of the important developments in technology and their implications for improving health care and presenting ethical challenges for the health care provider.

### TECHNOLOGY AND THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN ADOLESCENTS

Johann M D'Souza, PhD, Founder and Clinical Psychologist, Values First Therapy PLLC

This presentation will evaluate the mental health crisis among adolescents in tandem with the increased engagement in the use of digital media.