

Converging Roads – Diocese of Austin
Saturday, March 1, 2025 | St. John Neumann Catholic Church

FAITH AND SERVICE IN HEALTH CARE

8:00 AM	CHECK-IN / REGISTRATION BEGINS
8:45 AM	MASS
9:45 AM	OPENING REMARKS
9:55 – 10:55 AM	VOCATION OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL Carla Falco, MD
10:55 – 11:05 AM	BREAK
11:05 AM – 12:05 PM	DIGNITY, CONSCIENCE, AND THE FLOURISHING OF THE HUMAN PERSON Arland K. Nichols
12:05 – 1:40 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
12:35 – 1:35 PM	CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE ON BURNOUT AND MORAL DISTRESS Matthew Breuninger, PsyD
1:35 – 1:40 PM	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
1:40 – 2:00 PM	BREAK
2:00 – 3:00 PM	PRACTICING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE IN A SECULAR CULTURE Matthew Breuninger, PsyD; Carla Falco, MD; and Natalie King, MD, MA
3:00 – 3:10 PM	BREAK
3:10 – 4:10 PM	CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR MEDICINE Claudia R. Sotomayor, MD, DBe
3:30 – 4:30 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
4:10 – 4:20 PM	BREAK
4:20 – 5:20 PM	HOPE AND THE REDEMPTIVE MEANING OF HUMAN SUFFERING Natalie King, MD, MA
5:20 – 5:30 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:30 – 6:15 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

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VOCATION OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

Carla Flaco, MD, Pediatrician and President of Catholic Health Care Professionals of Houston

This presentation will outline the unique call and mission of the health care professional in a secular culture that may promote values contrary to religious ethics and norms.

DIGNITY, CONSCIENCE, AND THE FLOURISHING OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Arland K. Nichols, President, St. John Paul II Foundation

This presentation will establish the foundation of the dignity of the person as the basis for medicine and explain the role of the conscience in the practice of healthcare. It will consider the responsibility of patient and practitioner in being a good steward of life and health.

CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE ON BURNOUT AND MORAL DISTRESS

Matthew Breuninger, PsyD, Associate Professor of Psychology

This presentation will assess the need to broaden our approach in improving the wellness of healthcare professionals in light of the prevalence of burnout among them.

PRACTICING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE IN A SECULAR CULTURE

Matthew Breuninger, PsyD, Associate Professor of Psychology; **Carla Flaco, MD**, Pediatrician and President of Catholic Health Care Professionals of Houston; and **Natalie King, MD, MA**, Palliative Medicine Physician

Panelists to be chosen from confirmed keynote lecturers
Abstract: This panel presentation will discuss the distinct ethical practices, spiritual convictions, and contributions of Catholic healthcare providers to the full flourishing of their patients.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR MEDICINE

Claudia R. Sotomayor, MD, DBe, Chief of the Ethics Consultation Service MGUH and Assistant Professor at the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics

This presentation will provide an overview of the principles of Catholic social teaching and how medical care animated by these principles secure positive outcomes for patients and their families

HOPE AND THE REDEMPTIVE MEANING OF HUMAN SUFFERING

Natalie King, MD, MA, Palliative Medicine Physician

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.