



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

CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE IN MEDICINE

7:30 AM	CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION BEGINS
8:00 AM	MASS Celebrant: Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
9:15 AM	OPENING REMARKS Deacon Michael J. Deem, PhD
9:25 – 10:25 AM	THE IMPLICATIONS OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE FOR HEALTH CARE Rev. Peter Fonseca, MA, MS, MDiv
10:25 – 10:35 AM	BREAK
10:35 – 11:35 AM	THE ORIGINS, CHALLENGES, AND ETHICS OF TRANSHUMANISM Deacon Michael J. Deem, PhD
11:35 – 11:45 AM	BREAK
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	HUMAN DIGNITY AT THE END OF LIFE Andrew S. Kubick, PhD, MA
12:45 – 2:20 PM	HIPPOCRATIC OATH LUNCHEON
1:15 – 2:15 PM	ADVANCE DIRECTIVES: HOW SHOULD A CATHOLIC PREPARE? Rev. Peter Fonseca, MA, MS, MDiv, Deacon David Reardon, MD; and D. Brian Scarnecchia, MDiv, JD
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	THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS Sister Maria Amata Rossi, RSM
3:40 – 3:50 PM	BREAK
3:50 – 4:50 PM	THE SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF IN VITRO FERTILIZATION Daniel Kuebler, PhD
4:50 – 5:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:00 – 5:45 PM	WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION



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THE IMPLICATIONS OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE FOR HEALTH CARE

Rev. Peter Fonseca, MA, MS, MDiv, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis University

This presentation will provide an overview of Catholic Social Doctrine essential to providing care to patients in or by a Catholic healthcare facility or by Catholic healthcare professionals and will explain how to situate medicine firmly within the social doctrine of the Church.

THE ORIGINS, CHALLENGES, AND ETHICS OF TRANSHUMANISM

Deacon Michael J. Deem, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Human Genetics, Core Faculty, Center for Bioethics & Health Law

This presentation will discuss the development of transhumanism and emerging biomedical technologies that raise important ethical questions related to human flourishing and clinical practice.

HUMAN DIGNITY AT THE END OF LIFE

Andrew S. Kubick, PhD, MA, Deputy Director, National Center for Religious Freedom Education Research Fellow, Bioethics and Medical Conscience Religious Freedom Institute

This presentation will examine the unique approach of a Christian anthropology and its impact on clinical practice and public policy regarding the end of life.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES: HOW SHOULD A CATHOLIC PREPARE?

Rev. Peter Fonseca, MA, MS, MDiv, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis University; Deacon David Reardon, MD, Southwest Florida Guild of the Catholic Medical Association; and D. Brian Scarnecchia, MDiv, JD, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs & Visiting Professor of Law, Benjamin L. Crump College of Law Saint Thomas University

This panel will explore advance directives such as living will and medical power of attorney as they relate to Do Not Resuscitate and Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.

THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Sister Maria Amata Rossi, RSM, Religious Sister of Mercy of Alma

This presentation will evaluate the mental health crisis among children and adolescents.

THE SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF IN VITRO FERTILIZATION

Daniel Kuebler, PhD, Professor of Biology, Franciscan University of Steubenville; Research Director, Franciscan Regenerative

This presentation will present the medical methodology of in vitro fertilization (IVF) and why, based on this methodology, IVF raises serious ethical concerns.