Converging Roads Conference:
The Future of Human Dignity

St. John Paul II Foundation
November 7, 2026
Milwaukee, WI

Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Christian Medical & Dental Associations and St. John Paul II Foundation. The Christian Medical & Dental Associations is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Christian Medical & Dental Associations designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nursing

This nursing continuing professional development activity was approved by the Georgia Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. (6.0 contact hours)

Physician Assistant

AAPA accepts certificates of participation for educational activities certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ by an organization accredited by the ACCME or a recognized state medical society. Physician assistants may receive up to 6.0 credits for completing this activity.

Nurse Practitioner

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program (AANPCP) accepts *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ from organizations accredited by the ACCME. Individuals are responsible for checking with the AANPCP for further guidelines. Nurse practitioners may receive up to 6.0 credits for completing this activity.

Activity Director

Roland Millare, STD

Planning Committee

Edyta Day
Richard J. Fehring, MSN, PhD, RN, FAAN
James G. Linn, MD
Ellen Santoro
Franklin L. Smith, MD
Douglas Ulaszek, MA
Brian Wagner

Faculty

Johann M. D'Souza, PhD
Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD
John S. Grabowski, PhD
Sister Edith Mary Hart, RSM, DO, FAAFP
Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD
Jozef Zalot, PhD

Additional Reviewers

Gary Goforth, MD
Van Haywood, DMD
Mary Hermiz, BSN, MSN, EdD
Rafael Igartua, MD
Bruce Macfadyen, Jr, MD
Kirsten Madea, DO
M. Shawn Morehead, MD
Mike O'Callaghan, DDS
Ed Rylander, MD
Terry Schmidt, DDS
Sig Seiler, MD
Jonathan Spenn, DMD

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC TITLE	FACULTY NAME	CREDITS
7:30 AM	Check in/Registration Begins	----------	----------
8:00 AM	Mass	----------	----------
9:15 AM	Opening Remarks	----------	----------
9:25 – 10:25 AM	The Witness of Hippocratic Medicine in a Secular Culture	Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD	1.0
10:25 – 10:35 AM	Break	----------	----------
10:35 – 11:35 AM	Human Dignity and Human Flourishing in Medicine	Jozef Zalot, PhD	1.0
11:35 – 11:45 AM	Break	----------	----------
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Gender Dysphoria: Science, Ideology, and Ethics	Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD	1.0
12:45 – 2:20 PM	Hippocratic Oath Luncheon	----------	----------
1:15 – 2:15 PM	The Ethical and Religious Directives on Care for the Dying	Sister Edith Mary Hart, RSM, DO, FAAFP	1.0
2:20 – 2:40 PM	Break	----------	----------
2:40 – 3:40 PM	The Vocation to Health Care in a Secular Culture	Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD; John S. Grabowski, PhD; Sister Edith Mary Hart, RSM, DO, FAAFP	1.0
3:40 – 3:50 PM	Break	----------	----------
3:50 – 4:50 PM	Technology and the Mental Health Crisis in Adolescents	Johann M. D'Souza, PhD	1.0
4:50 – 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	----------	----------
5:00 – 5:45 PM	Wine and Cheese Reception	----------	----------

Disclosures

Disclosures for all those in control of the content of this activity. The names of the ineligible companies (within the last 24 months) and the nature of the financial relationship(s). There is no minimum financial threshold. Disclosure of all financial relationships with ineligible companies regardless of the potential relevance of each relationship to the education.

Activity Planners, Faculty, and CMDA CE Review Committee

No relevant financial relationships were identified for any individual with the ability to control the content of this activity.

ALL RELEVANT FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WERE MITIGATED.

Objectives

Technology and the Mental Health Crisis in Adolescents

- Discuss the causes and factors that have led to the development of the mental health crisis for children and teenagers in the United States.
- Appraise the effect of technology in relation to the mental health crisis.
- Assess varying strategies for health care professionals in collaboration with families and schools to address the causes of stressors that have increased the struggles with suicide ideation, hopelessness, anxiety, and depression.

The Witness of Hippocratic Medicine in a Secular Culture

- Discuss the history of the Hippocratic Oath and its practical implications for medicine that is dignified, compassionate, and loving.
- Compare and contrast medicine rooted in a modern secular philosophy with medicine rooted in the Hippocratic Oath.
- Consider which medical practices are a variance with Hippocratic medicine and care for the dignity of the human person.

The Vocation to Health Care in a Secular Culture

- Consider the role and challenges of integrating faith and ethics in the practice of medicine.
- Discuss what is unique about a Catholic approach to health care.
- Differentiate between a Catholic approach from a secular approach to medicine.
- Address challenges faced by health care students and trainees relating them to human dignity and religious freedom.

The Ethical and Religious Directives on Care for the Dying

- Identify the ethical issues related to end-of-life care and evaluate the argumentation in favor of and against physician assisted suicide and euthanasia.
- Differentiate the criteria between proportionate and disproportionate care at the end of life.
- Discuss difficult situations related to end-of-life care such as artificial nutrition and hydration and palliative sedation.
- Highlight significant changes in the most recent edition of the *Ethical and Religious Directives.*
- Discuss brain death and the implication of MAID (Medical Aid in Dying) laws in Wisconsin.

Gender Dysphoria: Science, Ideology, and Ethics

- Discuss medical psychosocial realities of gender dysphoria.
- Identify anthropological and medical basis for medical and psychological interventions.
- Consider medical outcomes of puberty suppression and gender reassignment surgeries and whether these interventions are in keeping with medical data and best patient outcomes.
- Propose ways in which health care professionals may approach and treat transgender patients and their family members with mercy and charity.

Human Dignity and Human Flourishing in Medicine

- Propose the theological, philosophical, and biological basis for a Christian anthropology application in healthcare.
- Discuss the relationship between the definition of anthropology and its relationship to the practice of ethical medicine.
- Consider what is means to speak of the dignity of the human person and human flourishing and how these concepts can impact medical care.
- Evaluate how varying anthropologies affect the practice of medicine.