



Converging Roads – Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Saturday, November 7, 2026 | Marquette University

THE FUTURE OF HUMAN DIGNITY

7:30 AM	CHECK-IN/REGISTRATION BEGINS Student Poster Presentations – available to visit throughout conference
8:00 AM	MASS Celebrant: Most Rev. Jeffrey R. Haines
9:15 AM	OPENING REMARKS John S. Grabowski, PhD
9:25 – 10:25 AM	THE WITNESS OF HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE IN A SECULAR CULTURE Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD
10:25 – 10:35 AM	BREAK
10:35 – 11:35 AM	HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN FLOURISHING IN MEDICINE Jozef Zalot, PhD
11:35 – 11:45 AM	BREAK
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	GENDER DYSPHORIA: SCIENCE, IDEOLOGY, AND ETHICS Paul W. Hruz, MD, PhD
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
2:15 – 2:20 PM	RECITATION OF THE PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
2:20 – 2:40 PM	BREAK Student Poster Presentations – available to visit throughout conference
2:20 – 3:10 PM	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
2:40 – 3:40 PM	THE VOCATION TO HEALTH CARE IN A SECULAR CULTURE Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD; John S. Grabowski, PhD; and Sister Edith Mary Hart, RSM, DO, FAAFP
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 Last Chance for Student Poster Presentations



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THE WITNESS OF HIPPOCRATIC MEDICINE IN A SECULAR CULTURE

Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Director, Center for Bioethics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine

This presentation will offer an overview of the Hippocratic Oath and its implications for medical care provided to patients.

HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN FLOURISHING IN MEDICINE

Jozef Zalot, PhD, Director of Education & Ethicist, The National Catholic Bioethics Center

This presentation will develop the unique relationship between the Christian understanding of the human person (anthropology) and its impact upon ethics.

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 reassignment, diagnostic tests for gender dysphoria, and puberty suppression. It will propose ways that health care professionals can mercifully and charitably approach transgender patients.

THE ETHICAL AND RELIGIOUS DIRECTIVES ON CARE FOR THE DYING

Sister Edith Mary Hart, RSM, DO, FAAFP, Family Medicine/Geriatric Medicine

This presentation will provide insights into the rationale for the teaching of the *Ethical and Religious Directives* on care for the dying. This presentation will also discuss how health care professionals can walk with patients at the end of life and bring hope.

THE VOCATION TO HEALTH CARE IN A SECULAR CULTURE

Ashley K. Fernandes, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Director, Center for Bioethics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine

John S. Grabowski, PhD, Ordinary Professor of Moral Theology/Ethics, Catholic University of America
Sister Edith Mary Hart, RSM, DO, FAAFP, Family Medicine/Geriatric Medicine

This panel will discuss the distinct Catholic approach to practicing medicine in a secular culture

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.