



à propos

**Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute
Institut canadien catholique de bioéthique**

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Inside this issue

Message from the Executive Director 1

People 2

Research 3

Updates 4

- Education
- Communications
- Board of Directors
- Bioethics News

PUBLICATION INSERTS

- Bioethics Update
- Bioethics Matters

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

No one could fail to be moved by the way in which our late Pope, John Paul II, approached the last days of his life. After a lifetime of travelling the world and being a living example of his own teaching in the *Gospel of Life*, he continued to teach and inspire us in the way he united his suffering with Christ before he was called into eternity. It is no exaggeration to say that the eyes of the world were upon him, and that, by the way he died, he continued to teach us right to the end.



At the CCBI we can see a connection between our mission and that of the Pontifical Academy of Life. In a speech marking its tenth anniversary, John Paul II said its mission is "...to study, inform and form on the principal problems of biomedicines and law relating to the promotion and defence of life, especially in the direct relation that the latter have with Christian morality and the directives of the magisterium of life".

We wholeheartedly agree with that statement, and welcome Pope Benedict XVI, who said in his homily at a Mass before the Conclave that today we live in "a dictatorship of relativism that recognizes nothing as absolute and which only leaves the 'I' and its whims as the ultimate measure." The Church offers Christ as "the true measure...to discern between what is true and what is false, between deceit and truth."

In our future research and endeavours, we at the CCBI must be aware of the foundations of our faith as we continue the work of bioethics from a Christian perspective. We welcome Mr. Frank Crothers and Mr. Pat Jordan to our Board of Directors, and we also welcome Fr. Leo Walsh, CSB, Dr. Bridget Campion and Mary Rowell to our research staff. They are already contributing to the work of the CCBI by writing articles and leading colloquia for the Institute, apart from their own ongoing research.

We are dealing with many serious bioethical issues in our work, but our main research focus for the next few years will be on responding to issues of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, with special emphasis on end of life issues, especially palliative care, including its spiritual and pastoral dimensions.

We are grateful for your support, and are extremely interested in any suggestions you may have that would help us develop our mission. Please contact us if you have any!

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!

Sincerely,
Moira McQueen.

MISSION

To promote and protect the dignity of the human person through interdisciplinary ethics research and education in health care and the life sciences.

PEOPLE



Dr. Rory Fisher, President, St. Joseph Moscati Toronto Catholic Doctors' Guild, H.E. Théodore Arcand, late President, Canadian Association, Order of Malta and Shirlee Sharkey, President and CEO, St. Elizabeth Health Care during the welcome reception at the RCYC Island Club.

FUNDRAISING EVENT AT THE ROYAL CANADIAN YACHT CLUB

On a clear September evening, sixty people gathered at the Toronto Island RCYC for a reception and fundraising dinner to support the CCBI. Dr. Fisher introduced the newly appointed director of the CCBI, Dr. Moira McQueen who provided the audience with a glimpse into the future of the Institute. She indicated that the CCBI will continue to engage in bioethics research and education on issues that are important to all Canadians.

CCBI BOOK LAUNCH

On February 5, 2005 the CCBI sponsored the launch of Dr. William Sullivan's book "Eye of the Heart: Knowing the Human Good in the Euthanasia Debate" in the Charbonnel Lounge, USMC.



Dr. William Sullivan and His Eminence Cardinal Ambrozic

Dr. Sullivan, founding director of the CCBI, is a family practitioner at St. Michael's Hospital and Surrey Place Centre, and an assistant professor at the University of Toronto, Department of Family and Community Medicine.

In his book, which is available at the University of Toronto bookstore, Dr. Sullivan draws on his experiences as a practicing physician and on the principles and techniques of the Canadian theologian Bernard Lonergan to argue that feelings are relevant in the process of making value judgments and that they play an important role in ethical decision-making.

MICHAEL VERTIN RETIRES

On April 25, the St. Michael's community gathered in the Charbonnel Lounge to honour Michael Vertin and other faculty and staff members who are retiring.



CCBI archive photo

Michael Vertin, Ph.D., S.T.B., S.T.L., professor of philosophy and religious studies, has been involved with the CCBI since initial consultations began in 2001. During a strategic planning session, he observed that in the field of bioethics "the relevant data are too vast and the requisite skills too diverse for any individual to master."

As moderator for the first CCBI Quodlibet in 2002, on "Ethics and Genetics", Dr. Vertin provided an organizational model for foundational thinking to the assembled interdisciplinary group, a model developed by the renowned Canadian Jesuit thinker, Bernard Lonergan, to focus on how such a collaborative work might be organized.

We wish him well in his retirement and thank him sincerely for his support.

IN MEMORIAM: THEODORE J. ARCAND (1934—2005)

It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to one of the CCBI's greatest supporters – His Excellency Théodore "Ted" Arcand, President of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta and Gentleman of His Holiness, who died suddenly in his 71st year on April 16, 2005.



Ted had a distinguished diplomatic career holding such posts as ambassador to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, Hungary and the Holy See and chief of protocol for Canada. As President of the Order of Malta, his support and commitment to defend the faith and serve "Our Lords, the sick" were instrumental in the development and growth of the CCBI.

RESEARCH

CCBI COLLOQUIA SERIES

During the academic year, the CCBI invites clinicians, health care professionals, bioethicists, theologians, clergy, philosophers and others to meet and discuss ethical issues.

On **October 2, 2004**, Dr. Anne Summers, Geneticist at North York General Hospital, gave an overview of the genetic screening programme for pregnant women in Ontario. A discussion on the consequent moral and ethical dilemmas followed.



Drs. Jaro Kotalik and Anne Summers taking a break during the colloquium.

November 6, 2004: Mary Rowell, CCBI researcher and clinical ethicist led a lively discussion on the theological and moral issues concerning the use of stem cells derived from embryos.

December 4, 2004: Angela White, University of Western Ontario, discussed the potential harm to women from the IVF process, the ethical problem of “spare” embryos and the conflict of interest for physicians. Bridget Campion, CCBI researcher and bioethicist, explored the reasons for pursuing IVF, the ethics of the issue and the wisdom of church teaching in this matter.

February 5, 2005: Dawn Oosterhoff, Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator, Hospital for Sick Children, discussed “Euthanasia in Canada” and compared Canadian application and laws with the way euthanasia is being practised in the Netherlands. Improved palliative care and pastoral and spiritual care are ways to counter the trend towards euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

March 5, 2005: Dr. Tony Kerigan, Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation, presented a case study and then facilitated a discussion on Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide, which encouraged a lively discussion.

April 2, 2005: At the final colloquium, Mary Rowell gave a brief history of pastoral care for those at the end-of-life and Rev. Jim Huth used examples from his own pastoral experience to illustrate situations in which caregivers of the dying can find themselves involved.

4TH ANNUAL CONNIE HENG MEMORIAL LECTURE IN BIOETHICS



Bishop Fabbro

On November 5, 2004, the Most Reverend Ronald Fabbro, CSB, Bishop of London gave a lecture on “Stem Cell Research, Cloning and Catholic Moral Theology” to more than 150 people in Alumni Hall, USMC.

Bishop Fabbro emphasized the difference between research on embryonic and adult stem cells and noted that success in the field of adult stem cells is a timely reminder that there are other ways to find cures for illnesses which allow for respect for the dignity of human embryos.

CARDINAL AMBROZIC LECTURE SERIES

The Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture Series was inaugurated by Dr. Richard Alway, on March 4, 2005 at the University of St. Michael’s College. This new series has been named in honour of His Eminence who together with theologians, physicians, lawyers and ethicists identified a need for Canadian Catholics to collaborate and contribute to public discussions on bioethical issues. Dr. John Keown, Rose F. Kennedy Chair in Christian Ethics, Georgetown University gave a keynote speech entitled “Euthanasia: Why Not?” Afterwards a workshop co-sponsored by the St. Joseph Moscati Toronto Catholic Doctors’ Guild and the Thomas More Lawyers’ Guild of Toronto reflected on questions raised by Dr. Keown’s presentation.



Dr. R. Alway

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

At the end of May, 40 academics and clinicians will gather in Toronto to discuss public policy and Canadian health care. Three keynote speakers will address issues related to the ethics of maintaining our public health system. The topics and speakers are:

- “Health Care and the Common Good: Catholic Contribution to the Public Dialogue”, Dr. Nuala Kenny, Paediatrician and Professor, Departments of Bioethics and Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University;
- “Politics, Media, and the Catholic Case”, Dr. Michael Higgins, President, St. Jerome’s College, University of Waterloo; and
- “Maintaining Catholic Values while interfacing with the Public Health Care System”, Shirlee Sharkey, President and CEO, St. Elizabeth Health Care.

We expect to publish the proceedings later in the year.

UPDATES

EDUCATION

Bioethics Matters Study Guides

Bioethics Matters was originally developed as a review and commentary to create an awareness and understanding of bioethical issues. The publication has been revised and now includes a study guide to assist parish groups, health care workers or pastoral care workers in their discussions of these important issues.

Topics that are currently available:

- Church's end-of-life teaching (English)
- Non-Voluntary Euthanasia (French and English)

“For People in the Pews”

Introduction to Current Issues in Bioethics
from a Roman Catholic Perspective

A parish-based course to provide a better understanding of bioethics is being discussed with various dioceses and will be offered to interested lay persons in the near future. The course will present relevant church teaching on some current bioethics topics such as reproductive technology, euthanasia and end-of-life issues. Dialogue is encouraged to provide participants with some guidance on these issues, especially in light of impending legislation on euthanasia.

Information concerning dates and locations will be available on our website later this year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Publications in Process

Proceedings:

- Globalization and the Culture of Life: Care of the Frail Elderly and Dying (2003 Colloquium).
- Use of Artificial Nutrition and Hydration (2004 Quodlibet)

Book:

- Ethics and Genetics: An Integrated Approach (University of Toronto Press)

Website: Visit the CCBI website www.utoronto.ca/stmikes/bioethics for up to date news, archived periodicals and links to popular bioethics and Catholic websites.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2005 CCBI Directors are:

Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic, Archbishop of Toronto
 Dr. Richard Alway, President, USMC
 Sr. Anne Anderson, Dean, Faculty of Theology, USMC
 Dr. Barry Brown, Professor Emeritus, USMC
 Francis Crothers, President, Island Corporate Holdings Limited, Nassau, Bahamas
 Patrick Jordan, CA
 John Kyle, Vice-President, Finance, Imperial Oil Inc.
 John McGrath, Chancellor, Archdiocese of Toronto
 Dr. Moira McQueen, Executive Director, CCBI
 Peter Quail, President, St. George Company, Paris, Ontario
 Most Rev. Anthony Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton

Note: USMC = University of St. Michael's College

BIOETHICS NEWS



International Association of Catholic Bioethicists

In June, 2005 the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists will hold its second Colloquium. Forty bioethicists from around the world have been invited to Melbourne, Australia to discuss “Dignity in Illness, Disability, and Dying”. At the end of the meeting, the I.A.C.B. hopes to produce a statement that will consolidate areas of agreement and identify areas for further reflection and discussion.

The colloquium is being co-hosted by the Australian Association of the Order of Malta and the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family in Melbourne. The first colloquium was hosted by the CCBI in 2003 at the University of St. Michael's College and sponsored by the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta.

For information about the I.A.C.B. and its activities, please visit their website: www.iacbweb.org