

## About Us

Our society faces unprecedented scientific developments that touch upon the mysteries of life and pose serious ethical challenges. The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) was established in 1972 to reflect on these issues and to promote and safeguard the dignity of the human person in health care and the life sciences. All of the NCBC's work is done in conformity with the official teachings of the Catholic Church, teachings drawn from a moral tradition that acknowledges the unity of faith and reason and builds on the solid foundation of the natural law.

The NCBC works to achieve its mission of upholding the dignity of the human person by providing education, guidance, and resources. The NCBC's education draws on the deepest resources of the Catholic faith to help people address challenging ethical issues in clinical practice and research. The NCBC's guidance helps individuals and institutions apply Catholic moral principles to specific situations with integrity. The NCBC is a leading publisher of books and articles on Catholic health care ethics and produces a wide range of electronic resources for professionals and the public.

The NCBC envisions a world in which the integral understanding of the human person underlying Catholic teaching on respect for human life and dignity is better understood and more widely embraced in America and worldwide.

## Membership

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) is a trustworthy source, providing valuable services that assist individuals and institutions in achieving their professional work in upholding and perpetuating Catholic medical ethics. The NCBC offers memberships for individuals, students, parishes, small organizations, dioceses, corporations, and state Catholic conferences.

The NCBC's membership benefits span a variety of resources, including electronic or print access to serial publications, recorded access to past webinars and lectures, consultations with an ethicist, updates on bioethics issues, access to monthly newsletters, and discounts on books and educational programs.



## Public Policy

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) is a reliable source of information concerning public policy that affects health care and other life sciences. The NCBC submits public comments and *amicus curiae* briefs in partnership with numerous agencies committed to the advancement of natural moral law. Numerous successes have been recorded in effectively shaping public policy that reflects the Hippocratic tradition.

The NCBC's website provides numerous resources on this civic responsibility, such as a biweekly Bioethics Public Policy Report that summarizes state and federal legislative, regulatory, and judicial actions.

## Mission

The mission of The National Catholic Bioethics Center is to provide education, guidance, and resources to the Church and society to uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research, thereby sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church.



## THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER

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# NCBC

## THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER



Upholding the dignity of  
the human person in health care  
and biomedical research

## Education

Education is at the core of the mission of The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC). Church leaders and Catholic health care executives frequently turn to the expertise of the NCBC for educational training in the Catholic moral tradition and its application to clinical and research situations.

### Dallas Biennial Workshop for Bishops

Every two years, in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus, the NCBC provides a multiday bioethics conference for Catholic bishops from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Philippines. The conference addresses a range of clinical issues and updates the bishops on emerging cultural and political threats to the ministry of Catholic health care.

### Seminars

The NCBC offers intensive educational seminars on topics in bioethics, such as beginning-of-life issues, biotechnology and human embryos, conscience protection in health care, brain death, and other end-of-life issues. Continuing education credits are available for physicians, nurses, and chaplains through most of our seminars.

### Certification

The National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics provides training in Catholic bioethics under the aegis of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*. The program is structured around online coursework combined with in-person components. Graduate credit is available through Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, CT, the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, and St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester, NY.

### Speakers' Bureau

The NCBC's ethicists are available to speak on a variety of the major medical and ethical issues of our day. Parishes, professional and pro-life groups, educational institutions, and major media outlets turn to the NCBC to provide attendees with informative, thought-provoking, and well-prepared presentations.



## Publications

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) is the world's largest Catholic publisher in the area of bioethics. The books and periodicals of the NCBC have consistently won top prizes from the Catholic Press Association for their scholarly content and presentation.

### Books

The NCBC publishes a variety of books intended to assist those who work in and oversee the Catholic health care ministry, those who teach in the classroom, and those who wish to be better informed regarding the principles and applications of Catholic bioethics.

### *Ethics & Medics*

*Ethics & Medics* is a four-page monthly bulletin that provides analysis and commentary on matters of current interest in health care, medicine, and law.

### *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*

The NCBC's peer-reviewed quarterly journal publishes articles on all aspects of health care, moral decision-making, and bioethics. In addition to its papers on leading topics in the field of medical ethics, each issue of *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* includes a report on political issues facing the Congress, the courts, and the states by our Washington correspondent. At the back, Notes & Abstracts provides readers with concise summaries of current research in science, medicine, and philosophy and theology, along with commentaries by distinguished columnists. The journal also reviews many books each year and reprints important documents from the Vatican and elsewhere.

## Consultations

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) helps individuals, Catholic institutions, and leaders to apply Catholic moral principles to issues in health, health care, and biomedical research with integrity.

### Personal Consultations

The NCBC helps individuals to form their consciences and make decisions in fidelity to Christ with its free and confidential consultation service. NCBC ethicists respond to telephone and email questions 24-7, fielding over 1,500 consults every year. NCBC ethicists equip patients, family members, clinicians, pastors, and researchers with the principled moral framework of the Catholic Church, reliable resources, and case-based explanations. The NCBC's guidance brings expert knowledge of bioethical issues straight to the person in a situation of need, from the beginning of life to the end of life and everywhere in between.

The Personal Consultations Fellows and Interns Program helps this critical service reach more people than ever, while providing hands-on ethics experience for suitable candidates.

### Institutional Consultations

The NCBC provides trusted counsel on Catholic institutional ethics and witness to many US bishops, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic health care systems and hospitals, dicasteries of the Holy See, and international nonprofit health care and social service organizations.

The NCBC's *Catholic Identity and Ethics Review* (CIER) program provides comprehensive assessment of Catholic hospitals, health care systems, and nursing homes based on the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*. The NCBC's *Catholic Health Insurance Ethics Review* (CHIER) program helps Catholic organizations to ensure that employee health insurance plans do not fund immoral practices such as abortion, contraception, sterilization, and gender transitioning. The NCBC also provides counsel on a range of organizational ethics issues, including analysis of major transactions and reviews of emerging ethical issues, incidents, policies, and programs.