Every day, health care professionals, legal professionals, and clergy are faced with situations that pose serious ethical challenges. This seminar series is presented to assist these professionals and other interested individuals in grappling with some of the major ethical challenges of our time.

This seminar series demonstrates that it is possible for one to be true to science and to faith. The truths of science and the truths of faith have the same source: God. He is the source of all truth, the truths discovered by scientists through the scientific method and the truths followed by disciples through the theological virtue of faith. Therefore, authentic science and authentic faith will always complement — not contradict — one another. They are friends, not foes.

Each session will include expert presentations as well as lively discussion from participants. Guest speakers are experts in medical ethics from the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) in Philadelphia. The Center is unique among bioethics organizations in that its message derives from the official teaching of the Catholic Church, drawing from a moral tradition that acknowledges the unity of faith and reason and builds on the solid foundation of natural law.

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Session Topics and Dates:

January 20–21
The Ethical and Religious Directives & Overview of Principles
Guest speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
This session will explain what is meant by the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, describe its role in the delivery of health care by Catholic service providers in the U.S., and measure its importance in the face of expanding technology.

February 24–25
Stem Cell Research and Cloning, Embryo Experimentation, Prenatal Testing, Embryo Adoption
Guest speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
The February session opens with a scientific explanation of stem cells and the research in this area. The discussion will address the scientific accuracy of media regarding stem cells and cloning, and the ethical issues involved.

March 16–17
Infertility and Means of Overcoming It
Guest speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
Learn the current methods of creating human embryos through assistive reproductive technologies and research, and the Catholic ethical teaching pertaining to the creation of human life through specified technologies.

April 20–21
Homosexuality, Intersexuality, Gender Identity
Guest speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
Describing gender identity disorder will lay the foundation for this session. With that groundwork, the presentation will compare intersexuality and related conditions; and evaluate homosexuality, lesbianism, transgenderism, and same sex attraction.

May 11–12
Chastity in Marriage, Natural Family Planning and Contraception
Guest speaker: Dr. John Haas
Discussion begins by determining the role of Catholic Health Care in health care delivery and explaining the Church’s teaching on marital chastity from a historical perspective. It will continue into Consortio Evangelius Vitae, with a focus on the pastoral and educational role of the Church in the family life of its members; and evaluation of the various methods of contraception, sterilization, and natural family planning in relationship to the Directives.

September 14–15
Proportionate/Disproportionate Interventions in End of Life Situations, Addressing Pain and Suffering, Sacraments, Cardio-Pulmonary and Neurological Criteria for Determining Death, Organ Donation
Guest speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
The historical perspective of the concept of brain death, relevant controversies, and the moral principles operable in supporting total brain death as a basis for organ donation launch this session. The components of compassionate end of life care consistent with the Directives will be identified, and strategies to address dilemmas encountered in the delivery of palliative care will be compared and contrasted. Discussion will proceed to the historical, legal, and ethical framework for the Organ Transplant Procurement Network, scenarios for organ donation and ethical implications, and comparing brain death and non heart-beating donation.
October 19–20
Moral Issues Associated with Artificial Nutrition and Hydration; Suicide, Assisted Suicide, and Euthanasia; Advance Directives; Health Care Proxy; Do Not Resuscitate Orders; Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment/ Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Forms
Guest speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
This session will compare and contrast the parameters and benefits of advanced directives and health care proxies, explain the operable principles in the end of life care decision making, and describe how those principles are incorporated into Catholic health care agency policies.

November 16–17
Abortion, Difficult Pregnancies, Early Induction, Ectopic Pregnancy, Fetal Remains, Sexual Assault Protocols
Guest speaker: Dr. Marie Hilliard
Select pre- and neonatal complications that present moral dilemmas will be identified along with a description of treatment methodologies. A discussion of foundational Catholic moral teaching to guide decision making in the face of such situations, and a compare-and-contrast of treatment with standards for protecting human life and dignity will ensue. Approaches to treating victims of sexual assault along in conjunction with the Directives, and evaluation of strategies to providing compassionate care will be discussed.

December 14–15
Issues of Cooperation with Evil
Guest speaker: Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
The seminar series ends with an explanation of the categories of cooperation as they apply to the delivery of health care, compare and contrast principles contained in the Directives in relation to the various forms of cooperation, and explain the principles of cooperation in select ethical dilemmas.

Register online at www.umary.edu/bioethics or for more information or to register a group, e-mail bioethics@umary.edu. Seating is limited.

Seminar series sponsors

Cost:
Full series (9 sessions with credit) .............. $500
Full series (9 sessions without credit) ....... $375
1 weekend seminar (with credit)............... $ 75
1 weekend seminar (without credit)......... $ 50
Half weekend seminar .......................... $ 35
(Half weekend seminar (Friday evening or Saturday morning, with credit)
Half weekend seminar .......................... $ 25
(Half weekend seminar (Friday evening or Saturday morning, without credit)
JOHN M. HAAS, Ph.D., S.T.L., K.M., is president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center. He has written articles on topics ranging from the role of the laity in the Church, to sexual morality, social justice issues and bioethics. He is the editor of and a contributor to Crisis of Conscience and Christian Marriage: A Historical Study, has written Marriage and the Priesthood and Contraception: A Personal Odyssey, and is a contributing editor to Crisis, the St. Austin Review and Touchstone magazines.

MARIE HILLIARD, J.C.L., Ph.D., R.N., is the director of bioethics and public policy at the NCBC. Dr. Hilliard holds graduate degrees in maternal-child health nursing, religious studies, and professional higher education administration, and has an extensive professional background in medical ethics and public policy and advocacy. In addition, she is a canon lawyer and serves as a resource for the United States Bishops on the implementation of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services as well as Church-State relations.

FATHER TADEUSZ PACHOLCZYK, Ph.D., is director of education at the NCBC and directs the Center’s National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics. He is the author of a column called Making Sense out of Bioethics that appears in various diocesan newspapers across the country. Father Tad earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Yale University and did advanced studies in theology and bioethics in Rome. He has presented on the science and ethics of stem cells and cloning numerous times across the country and abroad.

Hotel information:
A block of 20 rooms is available to series participants at the Expressway Inn, 200 E. Bismarck Expressway, for a discounted rate of $69 per night. Rooms must be reserved by the first of the month of the desired session.

To reserve a room, you may call 701-222-2900 or toll free at 800-456-6388, or fax 701-222-2901 and indicate you are with the Bioethics Seminar.

To book online, visit www.expresswayhotels.com. In the “Special Requests” field indicate “Bioethics Seminar” to receive the discounted rate.

Credit information:
Workshop sessions eligible for a variety of educational credits:

Providence Regional Medical Center Everett is accredited by the Washington State Medical Association CME Accreditation Committee to sponsor continuing medical education activities for physicians.

Providence Regional Medical Center Everett designates this educational activity for a maximum of 45 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The University of Mary Life Long Learning Program will award CEUs, Continuing Education or Graduate Workshop Credits, or Professional Development Credits. Applications are made on an individual basis and developed based on the requirements of an individual’s professional member organization, employer, professional certification or licensing requirements. Total contact hours offered for the entire series is up to maximum of 45 hours or 5 hours per weekend session.

Lawyers may apply to the North Dakota CLE Commission for Continuing Legal Education credit uniquely related to the special nature of the lawyer’s practice. Such applications are considered on an individual basis, based on relevance to the lawyer’s practice.

The ND Board of Pharmacy approved to grant five (5) hours of continuing education credit to pharmacists for attendance at the following programs, which are part of the series “Bioethical Challenges of Our Time”:

- February 24-25, 2012, Stem cell Research and Cloning, Embryo Experimentation, Prenatal Testing, Embryo Adoption
- October 19-20, 2012, Moral Issues Association with Artificial Nutrition and Hydration; Suicide, Assisted Suicide, and Euthanasia; Advanced Directives; Health Care Proxy; Do not Resuscitate Orders; Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment/ Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment Forms

For more information about the bioethics series, visit www.umary.edu/bioethics or e-mail bioethics@umary.edu.