

THE FIFTH
CARDINAL AMBROZIC
LECTURE IN BIOETHICS

**Nutrition and Hydration:
Ethical and Medical
Implications of Catholic
Teaching**

SPEAKERS

Rory Fisher, MB, FRCP, (ED) (C)
Geriatric Medicine, Sunnybrook Health
Sciences Centre, and University of
Toronto

Moira McQueen, LLB, MDiv, PhD
Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

7:00 pm

Madden Auditorium, Carr Hall
St Michael's College
100 St. Joseph Street, Toronto

SUMMARY

The provision of food and drink is basic to life itself, and is clearly morally demanded. An obligation to artificially nourish and hydrate people with serious medical conditions is sometimes questioned by caregivers and health care workers. Catholic teaching under John Paul II tells us we must always provide nutrition and hydration for PVS patients, even artificially, as part of the patient's basic care, until it is clear that it has reached its "proper finality". Previous teaching had said that artificial nutrition and hydration was extraordinary or disproportionate, and could be discontinued under certain conditions.

The lecture will discuss the evolution of the teaching and will discuss some challenging cases in an effort to clarify some of these questions.

BIOS

Dr. Rory Fisher is Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, and a member of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. He was Director of the Interdepartmental Division of Geriatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Director of the Regional

Geriatric Program of Toronto, and a member of the National Advisory Council on Aging. Dr Fisher has been President of both the Canadian Association on Gerontology and the Canadian Society of Geriatric Medicine, and a Council Member of the International Association on Gerontology. Formerly President of the St. Joseph Moscati Toronto Catholic Doctors Guild, he is currently Vice-President for the Toronto and SW Ontario Region of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta.

Dr. Moira McQueen graduated in law from the University of Glasgow. She received her Master of Divinity from the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College and the Toronto School of Theology, and PhD from the Faculty of Theology.

All are welcome to attend.
Reception to follow

For information on the
Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture:
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*Cardinal Ambrozic was a founding member of the
Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute.*