

Notice

Congratulations to CCBI colleagues Mary Rowell, PhD, who took her final vows as a Sister of St Joseph (Peterborough) on March 19, 2010, and to Fr Leo Walsh, CSB, who celebrates 50 years as a priest on June 25. Best wishes!

In a previous "Bioethics Matters" we referred to the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" in a list of documents. We were pleased to be contacted by Bishop John Stephen Knight who told us of his work on that Council in Rome, between 1987-1990. He also said the Council published a document, "Some Ethical Questions Relating to the Gravely Ill and Dying" in 1981, and it is that document which should have been mentioned in our article.

Continued from Page 1

to hear the Church's rationale for these stances discussed.

On another note, we would like to thank "Faith Connections," led by Vanessa Nicholas-Schmidt and, until recently, Sr. Thérèse Meunier, csj, for the work they do in developing awareness of such topics, and for inviting me to speak to their group again, along with Denis Costello of Catholic Family Services of Toronto.



We have made several media appearances and handled many requests for comment and conclude that media seem to be paying more attention to religious viewpoints. "Salt and Light," under the direction of Fr. Tom Rosica, csb, continues to produce excellent series for Catholics and a wider audience. Fr. Rosica has made possible a visit to Toronto by the well known Australian Dominican, Bishop Anthony Fisher, and CCBI is honoured to host a lecture in conjunction with "Salt and Light" to be given by Bishop Fisher on June 19, 2010.

Thank you to all who contact us for your support and prayers, and we extend a special thank you to our major donors, who are essential to our continuing work. The staff of CCBI is especially grateful to our Board of Directors for their generous gift of time, advice and support. They are: Archbishop Thomas Collins, Anne Anderson, csj, Richard Alway, Patrick Jordan, John Kyle, John McGrath, Moira McQueen, Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton (Designate, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops). We thank Mr Peter Quail for his service on the Board, and wish him well in his many endeavours.

We wish everyone a blessed summer, with time for rest and meditation.

Moira McQueen

Summer 2010



CANADIAN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS INSTITUTE
INSTITUT CANADIEN CATHOLIQUE DE BIOÉTHIQUE

UNIVERSITY OF ST MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

À PROPOS

this issue

Executive Director's Message P.1

Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture P.2

Bill C-384 P.3

Web News P.3



Bishop Anthony Fisher Lecture, June 19

CCBI and Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation are hosting a free lecture on June 19, 2010 at 11 am with guest Most Rev. Anthony Fisher, OP, Bishop of Parramatta, Australia. Bishop Anthony is also a Professor of Moral Theology and Bioethics, and was coordinator of World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney. Salt and Light will film the lecture which will cover the scientific, commercial, ethical and social aspects of the stem-cell debate in Australia today.

Contact CCBI to reserve a seat: (416) 926- 2335, bioethics.usmc@utoronto.ca.

Executive Director's Message

CCBI has been very active over the last few months in many areas. One of our major annual events, the Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture, was given this year by Rob Allore, SJ, PhD, on "Science and Religion in Conversation: Seeking the Common Good." Fr. Rob has devoted much attention over the years to this topic, freely sharing his ongoing reflections with CCBI and others, and we look forward to more such interchanges.

We noted with relief that Francine Lalonde's third attempt to pass a bill legalizing physician-assisted suicide was heavily defeated. CCBI contacted all MPs yet again, and were heartened by the unequivocal response of many of them. Other replies were more guarded. Some MPs were clear that they would not support the Bill in its present state, but they do not disagree with its main purpose. We must continue to call for better palliative care, support for hospices, and more resources for end-of-life care. In presenting our parish program "For People in the Pews," and in talking to several CWL councils, it has been wonderful to hear how so many people from the Catholic community volunteer their time and talents in community hospices and palliative and long-term care facilities. This type of commitment and witness is so necessary and it is so powerful, expressing Pope John Paul's call to solidarity with those in need.

We noted that there has been a global

improvement in child health and mortality. It appears that there has also been a drop in the number of abortions in Canada. CCBI supports any measures that will foster maternal and child health, while clearly not approving contraception and abortion. Some powerful voices claim that the last two practices are an essential part of maternal health, but Catholic moral teaching forbids them, encouraging us, rather, to petition government to provide essential resources such as clean water and proper clinics, including on Canadian aboriginal reserves.

CCBI has answered many requests for information on the above topics, as well as on end-of-life issues, HIV/AIDS, organ donation and IVF. I spoke at the recent Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario (CARFLEO) conference on teen sexuality and at a symposium at the University of Western Ontario on HIV/AIDS in Africa. Although discussing quite different spheres, my message reiterating Catholic teaching on the need to respect sexual intercourse as a procreative and unitive marital act, calling for abstinence from non-married teenagers and against the use of condoms as the main response to HIV/AIDS as opposed to calling for monogamous, marital relationships, was essentially similar. I cannot pretend that it was generally well received, but was encouraged by those who told me after each event that they were glad

Continued on Page 4



CANADIAN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS INSTITUTE
INSTITUT CANADIEN CATHOLIQUE DE BIOÉTHIQUE
UNIVERSITY OF ST MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DONATION CARD

Yes! I'd like to support CCBI in witnessing to the dignity and value of all human life at all of its stages.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Please make all cheques out to Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute

Official donation receipts are issued for income tax purposes.

In September 2009, Moira McQueen and Bambi Rutledge, a Committee member, attended the Toronto Homelessness and Palliative Care Committee's (THPCC) forum, "Building a Blueprint for Action on Palliative Care for the Homeless and Under-housed" with representatives from community agencies and government responsible for the care of Toronto's marginalized and homeless. Marginalized people are often not served well in the usual palliative care settings. Sharon Baxter, Executive Director of Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, gave the keynote address. There was agreement for the integration, coordination, and collaboration on inner city health and social care.

The discussion goes national at the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association's annual conference (Ottawa, October 27-31) with the panel, "Canary in the (coal) Mine: How serving the homeless can alert us to challenges of the palliative care system." Committee Chair, Paddy Bowen, St Felix Centre, Ron Lirette, The Dorothy Ley Hospice, Perram House Hospice, with Wendy Muckle, Ottawa Inner City Health, "will tackle questions including: What are the values at the center of our system? How do you serve those who don't fit into our model and how do we challenge our own bias? How do we manage the current Palliative Care models limitations, with an eye to the needs of the homeless? What is the lived experience is our system failing to meet needs. What is missing from our system?"

Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture

Speaker: Rob Allore "Science and Religion in Conversation: Seeking the Common Good"

Over the centuries, religion and science have had a tenuous relationship with each claiming an exclusive vision of and access to the Truth. With the ascension of science in the Western world and religion's stubborn refusal to yield, is it possible to re-vision their relationship in the twenty-first century?

Rob Allore, SJ, in the 2010 Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture, "Science and Religion in Conversation: Seeking the Common Good," addressed this challenge. He was in a unique position to do so. As a scientist doing genetic research at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and as a Jesuit priest with a ministry at the Newman Centre at the University of Toronto, he was able to speak to the importance and wonder of science and to the dignity and relevance of a faith perspective.

Allore noted the claims made by science and religion: that each is in search of the truth, albeit using different tools and approaches; each is working within its own unfolding "healthy, well integrated, [and] sustainable" world view; each means to be influential in our world by proposing an understanding of what "the good" means and how it should be lived on an



individual level and at the level of public policy.

Allore took the audience through two pressing issues: stem cell research and the human genome project. With his knowledge as a researcher and his skills as a teacher he was able to make the science accessible to the audience, discussing the insights that these discoveries give us about human nature and the world and showing at the same time that genetics does not explain everything. A transcended element remains at work in creation.

Allore also noted that if religion and science were to

be in the service of the Common Good, it was important to know what the Common Good is. According to Allore, the Common Good includes a social justice component, requires a global perspective, and insists on the dignity of all persons. And it is this vision of the Common Good to which both religion and science must aspire if they are to serve the Truth.

CCBI thanks Josef Hochleitner for sending his photographs of Father Allore.

View this lecture Online at www.ccbi-utoronto.ca.



CCBI commends MPs (April 27, 2010)

The Vote on Bill C-384 | Le vote sur le projet de loi C-384

To all Members of Parliament

The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute and its supporters are greatly heartened by your voting against Bill C-384 on Thursday, April 22, 2010.

We consider the premise of the Bill to be wrong in encouraging the deliberate ending of life as a solution to pain and suffering, when palliative care is available in many forms. We continue to be concerned that personal relationships of trust will be eroded, whether between doctor and patient or within families, should such a Bill ever become law.

Thank you for the stance you have taken in this matter, and for your vigilance in helping people "live life" until its natural end.

À tous les députés de la Chambre des Communes

L'Institut canadien catholique de bioéthique et ses supporters se réjouissent que vous ayez voté contre le projet de loi C-384 jeudi le 22 avril 2010.

Nous considérons la prémisse du projet de loi sans fondement. Il est mal d'encourager que l'on mette délibérément un terme à la vie comme solution à la douleur et à la souffrance, d'autant plus que des soins palliatifs sont disponibles sous diverses formes. Nous continuons de croire que des liens de confiance, tant entre médecin et patient qu'entre membres d'une même famille, seraient brisés si un tel projet devait devenir loi.

Merci pour votre prise de position à ce sujet, et pour votre vigilance en vue d'aider les personnes à vivre leur vie jusqu'à sa fin naturelle.

Moira McQueen, LLB, MDiv, PhD
Executive Director | Directrice générale
Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute
Institut canadien catholique de bioéthique

Parish Program: "For People in the Pews"

Stem cell research. A Parliamentary Bill to legalize euthanasia. Cloning. For Catholics, newspaper headlines and broadcasts contain a myriad of issues that raise ethical questions: is in vitro fertilization an acceptable way to have children? Is "pulling the plug" the same thing as mercy killing? And where is conscience in all of this?

The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute's "For People in the Pews" (FPIP) is a series designed to help Catholics understand emerging issues in bioethics and the Church's response to them. In each of four evenings, a member of CCBI's staff or Advisory Committee will lead parish groups through issues, cases and Church Teaching, leaving plenty of time for questions and discussion. The sessions are meant to be informative and relevant, addressing topics like end-of-life care, assisted human reproduction,

living wills. At Holy Family Parish in Whitby, for instance, discussions included when human life begins, the use of pain relief at the end of life, and the pros and cons of advance directives. Parishioners continued the lively conversation over coffee and cookies during each session's break.

CCBI has presented the series in parishes in the Archdioceses of Edmonton and Toronto, the Dioceses of Hamilton, Peterborough, and Calgary.

For more information or to book the series for your parish, contact Bambi Rutledge at CCBI, (416) 926 2335. CCBI's website, www.ccbi-utoronto.ca, features an FPIP page, and the Calendar of Events has dates and locations of parishes where FPIP will be held.

WEB NEWS Updates Online

Thalia Flood, CCBI's web manager, recently redesigned CCBI's website. Our homepage is now a more engaging experience because of the improved features. For instance, if you were unable to attend the 2009 Annual Lecture, "Palliative Care for the Young, the Elderly, and the Marginalized and Homeless," watch the videos of panelists Dr Marisa Zorzitto, Dr Christine Newman, and Rowena Thirlwall. Links to televised programs, such as Perspectives of Salt and Light Television with CCBI staff Drs Moira McQueen and Bridget Campion discussing euthanasia, are available.

"Perspectives," by Bambi Rutledge, is a new tab. It opens pages of poetry and fiction that are reflections on challenging social, moral, and bioethical concerns.

Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute
81 St Mary Street
Toronto ON M5S 1J4

416 926 2335
www.ccbi-utoronto.ca

bioethics.usmc@utoronto.ca