

CCBI continues to receive many individual requests for advice, information and for answers to diverse bioethical questions, and we do our best to respond to people both theologically and pastorally.

Conversations in Bioethics

We now broadcast a radio program called "Conversations in Bioethics" through the auspices of Radio Teopoli. We are delighted to be part of a venture that brings the wisdom of Catholic teaching to the airwaves, and to another audience. Bridget Campion and I enjoyed preparing our first two broadcasts, and we are grateful to Fr Claudio Picannino and producer Laura Cirami for making this possible. We see it as another means of evangelization, and we are also hoping that CCBI will reach even more people through this means. Our plan is to present a program each month. So many talented and expert people in our Church are ready to share their expertise and beliefs, and we are looking forward to working with them. Please tune in to Radio Teopoli: AM530, or www.teopoli.com.

Bioethics Matters, second edition

We are happy to announce that Novalis decided to print a second edition of *Bioethics Matters*, a short handbook I wrote as a result of our FPIP program. It is designed to complement the sessions, and to give people a useful guide from a Catholic perspective in answering some of the bioethical questions the course raises. The book deals with some fundamental principles of the Catholic approach to moral decision making, which are then applied to some important areas of bioethics, reproductive technologies (especially in vitro fertilization and the use of stem cells), end-of-life issues, including when to begin or end some treatments, and ongoing concerns about euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

COMING EVENTS

November 16, 2011. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of CCBI. You are invited to a special event that day at 2 pm in Brennan Hall, which will feature opening remarks by Archbishop Thomas Collins and President Anne Anderson, csj. This will be followed by a lecture by Iain Benson, LLB, who will speak on the topic of freedom of religion from a legal and ethical perspective. Another featured speaker will be Dr. Bill Sullivan, founding Executive Director of CCBI and President of the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists, who will give a brief history of early developments in the Institute's formation.

January 19, 2012. "Gift of Life." Please plan to attend a very important presentation on Organ Donation awareness. This event is sponsored by CCBI and Campus Ministry, University of St. Michael's College, with input from Trillium Gift of Life, the Ontario organization responsible for the organ donation registry. We know that there is always an urgent need for organ donation, and the list of those waiting for potentially life-saving donations is long. Come and hear some real-life stories of people whose lives have been literally saved through the generosity of others. The speakers include a brother and sister who are also donee/donor! Not only is that remarkable, but they also have close ties with St. Mike's! Please join us on January 19th at 7 pm in Carr Hall, located at 100 St. Joseph Street.

We extend sincere thanks to those who support CCBI: the Board of Directors; donors and supporters; our guest speakers and those who attend our events; and web administrator Thalia Flood.

Moira McQueen



Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic, 1930-2011

Cardinal Ambrozic was deeply involved in the founding of CCBI and honoured the Institute by serving as the first Chair of its Board.

CCBI is grateful for his unflagging spiritual and moral encouragement and for his generous support of the Institute.

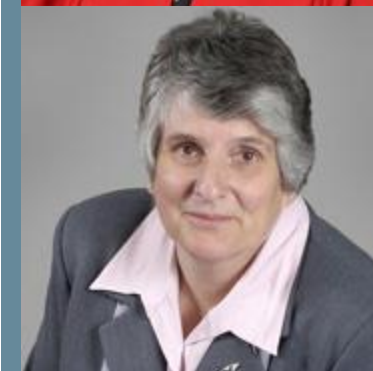
We will be proud to continue the Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture series in honour of his memory. RIP

Fall
2011



CANADIAN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS INSTITUTE
INSTITUT CANADIEN CATHOLIQUE DE BIOÉTHIQUE

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



CCBI's 10th Anniversary
Brennan Hall
November 16, 2 pm

Speakers:
Archbishop Thomas Collins

Prof. Anne Anderson, csj,
President, USMC

Iain Benson, LLB

Organ Donation: A
Catholic Perspective
Carr Hall, 100 St Joseph St.
January 19, 2012,
7 pm

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Executive Director's Message

On March 24, 2011, Bishop William McGrattan, one of Toronto's auxiliary bishops and a moral theologian, honoured CCBI by being a guest lecturer in our Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture Series. He spoke about spirituality in health care, and the different emphasis this has on health care under Catholic auspices. Given the dearth of things spiritual in our society, and sometimes in health care facilities, due to political correctness and lack of encouragement, his talk came as a timely reminder that we omit this dimension of the human spirit and personality at our peril.

[\(See page 2 for a full report.\)](#)

I presented CCBI's For People in the Pews (FPIP) program, a four-week series of conversations in bioethics, in St. Margaret of Scotland, Toronto, Our Lady of Grace, Aurora, and St. Aidan's, Scarborough. Dr Bridget Campion also presented FPIP at Holy Rosary, Belleville, and Sacred Heart, Brockville, both in the Archdiocese of Kingston. All the series were well attended, and we thank the respective pastors and hosts who invited us, as well as the many helpers in these churches who so willingly work to ensure that the programs run smoothly. [For more information about hosting FPIP, please see page 3.](#)

As the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's representative on the Canadian Council of Churches Biotechnology

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Reference Group, I co-wrote an interdenominational curriculum called "Faith and Genetics," a program for discussing several common ethical concerns raised by genetics. I facilitated the Catholic pilot program, graciously hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toronto. The pilot was well received, and the BRG received valuable feedback from those present. Thank you Amy, Cynthia, and Sr. Ann for your skillful help and warm hospitality. Seven denominations took part overall, and the BRG is now engaged in evaluating the program and making improvements.

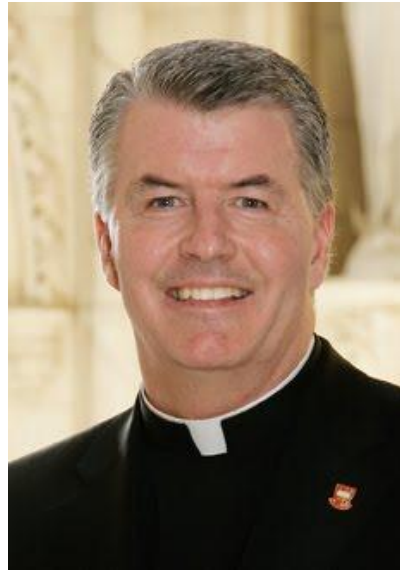
In July I gave a talk on freedom of religion and conscience in health care at a conference held by the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity in Deerfield, Illinois, and was encouraged by the interaction of Evangelicals and Catholics in the bioethical realm. An excellent talk was given by Dr. David Stevens, President of the Christian Medical and Dental Association (US), who stressed the need for virtue, prudence, conscience and prayer as the foundation of good health care. It was so much in line with Catholic teaching on Natural Law that one could not help but be inspired.

I was glad to be of service over the past several years on the committee which revised the "Fully Alive" family life program for Ontario Catholic schools, as well as to be of service to some school boards who are dealing with provincial rules and regulations that need nuanced responses.



Bambi Rutledge attended "Compassion: the heart of our vision," the annual conference of the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada (the Alliance), co-sponsored in 2011 by the Catholic Health Association of Manitoba. Twelve organizations form the Alliance whose mission is to strengthen and support the ministry of Catholic health care organizations and providers in Canada. The Alliance focuses on ethics, mission and values integration, leadership development, and national advocacy. The conference drew on the "centrality of compassion in the healing encounter," Jesus' mission of love and healing, advocacy for the poor, and the call, the vocation, to service. Keynote speaker LGen. the Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire (Ret'd) spoke on compassionate leadership, and the ethical and moral issues inherent in conflict situations. Senator Dallaire described the outstanding compassion and commitment of his Canadian troops in Rwanda as they responded to the humanity of victims in the face of savagery and death. He elaborated on rape as a "new" weapon in war, the impact of post-traumatic stress on soldiers and their families, and identified many in the audience who were actively committed to work overseas and in Canada that has contributed to improvement of lives in war-torn locations.

Sister Nuala Kenny, the Alliance's Ethics and Health Policy Advisor and member of the Core Committee for the revision of the *Health Ethics Guide*, updated delegates on the process and status of the *Guide*. After the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops approves the *Guide*, it will be translated and printed for distribution. The anticipated date for publication is 2012. St John's, NL, hosts the 2012 conference, "Spirituality in Health Care: growing into wholeness."



2011 Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture

Speaker: Bishop William McGrattan
"Spirituality and Health Care"

On March 24, 2011, Bishop William McGrattan, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Toronto, delivered the annual Cardinal Ambrozic Lecture in Bioethics. Titled "Spirituality and Health Care," the lecture addressed the richness of Catholic health care tradition and the increasing secularization of health care and society.

Using an expansive and inclusive understanding of health care, Bishop McGrattan showed how health is not simply a private matter between individuals and their physicians, but a societal concern. He noted, for instance, that one-fifth of Canadian health care spending can be attributed to socio-economic factors affecting individuals. As well, the Bishop adopted a wholistic view of persons and insisted that health care must address the wellbeing of persons in their physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual entirety.

Against this inclusive and wholistic approach to health care, Bishop Grattan noted the trend towards secularization in society which, among other things, reduces persons to autonomous, material beings and health care to exercises in individualistic problem-solving. This is to miss not only the richness of human existence that is found in both the communal and transcendent aspects of our being but, on a more practical level, this approach also ignores the non-physical factors that can compromise the health and wellbeing of individuals and of society.

This becomes exacerbated with the exclusion of religious voices from the public forum. Bishop McGrattan insisted that justice requires that all voices be heard—including expressly religious voices—in the public debates around matters of health care.

Bishop McGrattan reminded listeners of the foundations of Catholic health care, that is, the compassionate healing ministry of Christ. It was a multi-layered ministry: not only did the healings restore persons to physical and spiritual wholeness, they were also occasions of evangelization. They were, as Bishop McGrattan said, "politically charged" indications of the presence of the Kingdom of God.

Those involved in Catholic health care are called to continue Christ's evangelical ministry, welcoming people marginalized by illness back to communion and wholeness and witnessing to the reality of the transcendent in health care and human existence. By celebrating spirituality and health care, we resist secularization and embrace a wholistic—and realistic—understanding of persons and wellbeing.

Bridget Campion

For People in the Pews

For People in the Pews (FPIP) is an "everyday bioethics" lecture series designed for parishes and other interested groups. Understanding bioethical principles has become increasingly important as science and medicine develop new techniques. Sometimes these raise moral questions that seem to challenge Catholic teaching on the dignity of human life. When unexpectedly confronted with moral and ethical dilemmas related to biotechnologies, many people may find themselves at a loss and seek guidance.

Parish Settings:

A parish may host or co-host FPIP with neighbouring parishes. FPIP fits well into an Advent or Lenten schedule. The normal schedule is two hours an evening over four weeks. (Other arrangements to suit the parish are possible.)

Other Settings:

For People in the Pews is suitable for many organizations. The format conforms to the needs of the audience. FPIP has been held in hospice and long-term care settings and as seminars for clergy and educators. It may be scheduled as a one-day event, a weekend, or over consecutive days or evenings.

Outline

Part 1:

A Catholic Perspective on Ethics

- Foundations of Catholic Ethics:
 - Scripture and Tradition
 - Natural Law
- Foundations of Catholic Bioethics
- Conscience

Part 2:

Reproductive Issues

- Personhood
- Reproductive technologies
- Stem cell research and cloning

Part 3:

End-of-Life Issues

- Withdrawal of treatment
- Prolonging life
- Pain and Suffering
- Terminal sedation
- Health-care directives

Part 4:

Euthanasia and Assisted Dying

- Euthanasia
- Physician-assisted suicide
- Palliative care
- Sacrament of the Sick
- Spiritual needs

Contact CCBI

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bioethics.usmc@utoronto.ca

Presenters

Theologians and specialists present Church teaching and engage people in discussion on moral and ethical life issues:

Moira McQueen, LL B, MDiv, PhD

Dr. McQueen is the Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute.

She teaches moral theology in the Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College.

Bridget Campion, PhD

Barry Brown, PhD

Rory Fisher, MB, FRCP(ED)(C)

Mary Rowell, csj, PhD

Honorarium Parishes:

The recommended amount for the honorarium to CCBI is \$10 per person per evening; parishes often choose to assume the cost of the honorarium.

Other Groups:

Please contact CCBI to discuss the honorarium.

Distance Engagements:

FPIP has been held in Calgary, Edmonton, and in many Ontario locations outside Toronto. We welcome the opportunity to travel to bring this program to you. Participation through video conferencing is an option.