



CCBI is blessed with many generous donors and in December two of them, Mr. Frank and Mrs. Helen Morneau, who have also been very generous towards the Newman Centre of Toronto, were honoured at an event sponsored jointly by CCBI and the Newman Centre. The evening began at Newman, with Mass presided over by Cardinal Collins, followed by my presentation on "The Cardinal Virtues and Bioethics," and concluding with a lovely reception hosted by the Newman Centre. Frank and Helen are well known for their philanthropic work in Toronto and beyond, and our event was intended to go at least a little way towards recognizing them for all that they have done and all that they make possible for our two organizations. CCBI is certainly indebted to them and to our other donors for their generous spirit and wonderfully encouraging support.

In October, 2014, I was surprised and extremely honoured to be appointed by Pope Francis to the International Theological Commission for a five year term, which involves meeting with the Commission in Rome twice a year and corresponding with the other twenty-nine members during the year.

I was asked to give the John Meagher Lecture presented by USMC Faculty of Theology in November 2014, and chose the topic "The Influence of Pope Francis on Catholic Bioethics," as well as to give the USMC Annual Lenten Twilight Retreat in March, 2015, on the theme of "The Joy of the Gospel."

CCBI has been invited to give many lectures and presentations in dioceses, schools and parishes, and, along with our sister group, CCBI-Assumption (Windsor), we are always keen to participate in any event which helps give voice to our dual mandate of research and education in Catholic bioethics. Please see more about some of these events in the following pages!

[Moira McQueen](#)



Fr. Chris Cauchi, Pastor and Chaplain, Newman Centre. Moira McQueen, Helen and Frank Morneau



Thomas Cardinal Collins, Fr. Chris Cauchi

On Aging Well, October 15, 2014

Dr. Rory Fisher, an experienced medical practitioner in geriatric medicine and professor emeritus in the medical faculty of the University of Toronto gave the CCBI-Order of Malta lecture On Aging Well, truly a critical and timely topic. He presented strategies for successful aging through a review of normal aging, increased longevity, common degenerative diseases, and navigation of the health care system.

Dr. Fisher's comprehensive address on theories of aging, on changes relative to aging in our multiple physiological, neurological, cognitive systems was followed by his insightful question, "How old would you feel if you didn't know your age?" The liabilities of aging, especially among the frail elderly, are certainly glaringly visible in acute-care hospitals that are ill positioned to respond to the additional pressure generated by an aging population. "Acute care hospitals are dangerous places for old people!"

He asserted that biological age and chronological age are not the same. Witness "femme fatale" Joan Collins, Dame Helen Mirren and Dame Judy Dench of film fame and Mississauga's former mayor, "Hurricane" Hazel McCallion, CM.

Statistics Canada cites that the number of people aged one hundred and over increased 50% between 1996 and 2006, and this number is set to triple in the next fifteen years. A “silver tsunami” is a descriptor of the fact of aging and the anticipated impact of an aging population not only on the health care system but on major non-medical problems experienced by many seniors, such as isolation, inadequate housing, transportation, and inadequate current support for caregivers. Ageism is to be condemned; aging is not a disease. Society often devalues seniors and may inhibit them from actively aging with self-agency and engagement.

Dr. Fisher outlined strategies for successful aging. He reiterated the importance of exercise, wise choices in diet, not smoking, moderate consumption of alcohol and caffeine and he gave a summary of wide-ranging affirmations. Integrating, not isolating, an aging population, improving community care, restoring “health” to the health-care system, using technology to support aging well, and educating against ageism were among his many recommendations.

Cora Twohig-Moengangongo, Theologian

Conferring of Papal Honours

On November 23rd, 2014, Papal Honours were conferred upon fifteen deserving recipients by Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada during the 11 am Mass on the Solemnity of Christ the King, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton. Moira McQueen was named a Dame of St. Gregory the Great.



Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, Moira McQueen, Gérald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix

Catholic Bioethics: For People in the Pews

For People in the Pews is CCBI’s introduction to Catholic ethics: the series is grounded in scripture, tradition, and Natural Law, and looks at how we understand personhood, the development of conscience, and spiritual needs. Attention is given to end-of-life issues, assisted death, palliative care, reproductive and stem cell technologies.

Dr. Bridget Campion will present the FPIP series at Holy Family Catholic Church in Whitby this Fall. Details will be available on our website when dates are confirmed. If your area parishes wish to sponsor FPIP, contact CCBI for further information.

Media News

Go to “Media” on ccbi-utoronto.ca and click on “Video” to watch Dr. Fisher’s presentation. Under “Audio” you will find David Bain’s November presentation on “Informed Consent Issues across the Lifespan.” David speaks about informed consent and other bioethics issues that have an impact on various developmental stages in one’s life.

Also in the Audio section you will find Dr. Bridget Campion’s March lecture on “Building a Culture of Life in the Shadow of Death.” Dr. Campion explores ways in which it is possible to build a Culture of Life in Canada even as the door to physician-assisted suicide is now wide open.

On February 8, 2015 the Catholic Civil Rights League, the Toronto Catholic Doctors’ Guild, and CCBI held a seminar/webinar to help physicians frame their response to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario’s policy document on professional obligations and human rights.

Radio Teopoli AM530: Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, Conversations in Bioethics

April 28, 2015 – Dr. Moira McQueen Interviews Charles Lewis: The Supreme Court of Canada and Assisted Suicide

February 17, 2015 – World Day of Sick 2015, Assisted Suicide and Conscience Clauses

January 27, 2015 – Dr. Moira McQueen and the International Theological Commission

To listen to Radio Teopoli on demand visit: teopoli.com