

National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC)

Welcome to The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC)! We are glad the Diocese of Lincoln has chosen to support the integrity and witness of the Church's healing ministry through your membership in the NCBC, and we hope you take advantage of all the services we offer our members.

This welcome packet summarizes your membership with the NCBC and contains the following information:

- Description of your member benefits.
- The NCBC's mission and history.
- Contact information for the NCBC.

Description of Your Member Benefits

The first benefit included in your membership is permission to print and distribute the NCBC's three end-of-life guides at your parish:

- [*A Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decisions*](#) explains core concepts in medical decision-making, including redemptive suffering, ordinary and extraordinary means, and advance care planning. The guide also includes templates for a health care proxy and a living will.
- [*A Catholic Guide to POLST*](#) provide guidance for filling out documents that patients can use to document their treatment preferences across multiple health care setting, including benefits and concerns with common forms. The guide also includes a template physician orders for life-sustaining treatment (POLST).
- [*A Catholic Guide to Palliative Care and Hospice*](#) describes the differences between palliative care and hospice and identifies common moral issues that can arise when receiving hospice. The guide also includes a checklist for evaluating programs and facilities.

The diocese has provided us with your contract information so that we can better serve your needs, and the second benefit included in your membership is a set of three bulletin inserts you will receive directly by email at the end of each month:

- The [*Bioethics Public Policy Report*](#) summarizes legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments on life issues at both the state and federal levels to help Catholics stay informed on all these topics and hold their representatives accountable to their values.
- [*Living a Catholic Life*](#) fills a gap in adult catechesis by introducing parishioners to different tools for thinking like a Catholic. These include reflections on the components of the moral act, principles like double effect and totality, and larger concepts like the integrated view of the human person.
- [*Making Sense of Bioethics*](#), Fr. Tad Pacholczyk's long-running, syndicated column, answers common question on topics ranging from ventilator support to helping friends and family through a difficult pregnancy.

These benefits also are available to you:

- You can access resources for adult education and study groups through your diocesan point of contact.
- To use tuition discounts for you and your staff on NCBC courses, seminars, and other NCBC-sponsored programs, contact Manager of Educational Program and Events Julie Kelley when you enroll at jkelly@ncbcenter.org or 215-871-2013.
- To access your free professional consultation, please contact Personal Consultations Director John A. Di Camillo at jdicamillo@ncbcenter.org or 215-871-2001.
- If you would like to publicize the NCBC's free consultation service to your parishioners, please feel free to use or edit the following text:

Free Service: Church Teaching for Health Care Decisions

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) equips you with reliable references, thorough explanations, and case-based guidance so you can form your conscience with Catholic teaching when making health care decisions. This free service covers topics including end-of-life care, assisted nourishment, and hospice; avoiding, achieving, or managing pregnancy; biomedical research; cooperating with the wrongdoing of others; and many more.

Contact NCBC:

215-877-2660

www.ncbcenter.org/ask-a-question

The NCBC's Mission and Vision

Our society faces unprecedented scientific developments that touch upon the mysteries of life and pose serious ethical challenges. The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) was established in 1972 to reflect on these issues and to promote and safeguard the dignity of the human person in health care and the life sciences. All of the NCBC's work is done in conformity with the official teachings of the Catholic Church, teachings drawn from a moral tradition that acknowledges the unity of faith and reason and builds on the solid foundation of the natural law. The NCBC works to achieve its mission of upholding the dignity of the human person by providing education, guidance, and resources to strengthen the integrity and witness of the Church's healing ministry.

The NCBC's education draws on the deepest resources of the Catholic faith to help people address challenging ethical issues in clinical practice and research. Notably, since 1980, we have hosted a workshop on pressing issues and developments in the area of medical morality, which is attended by over one hundred bishops from across North America. The Center has always enjoyed the strong support of a large number of bishops. Today, a majority of US dioceses, and numerous foreign dioceses, receive the benefits of their affiliation with the NCBC.

The NCBC's guidance helps individuals and institutions apply Catholic moral principles to specific situations with integrity. Perhaps most significant, our ethicists also are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide bioethical guidance, free of charge, to patients and families facing difficult medical decisions. The NCBC also is a leading publisher of books and articles on Catholic health care ethics and produces a wide range of electronic resources for professionals and the public.

The NCBC envisions a world in which the integral understanding of the human person underlying Catholic teaching on respect for human life and dignity is better understood and more widely embraced in America and worldwide.

For more information about the NCBC's programs and services, please visit www.ncbcenter.org.

Contact Information for the NCBC

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Click here to learn more about [ethicists](#), [staff](#), and [board of directors](#).

If you have any questions about your parish member benefits, please contact Phil Cerroni at pcerroni@ncbcenter.org. If you have any other questions about your membership with the NCBC, please contact me at szerr@ncbcenter.org.

We value your relationship with the NCBC and look forward to providing you with access to the education, guidance, and resources to uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research.

Very respectfully,
Sarah Zerr
Membership Director
The National Catholic Bioethics Center