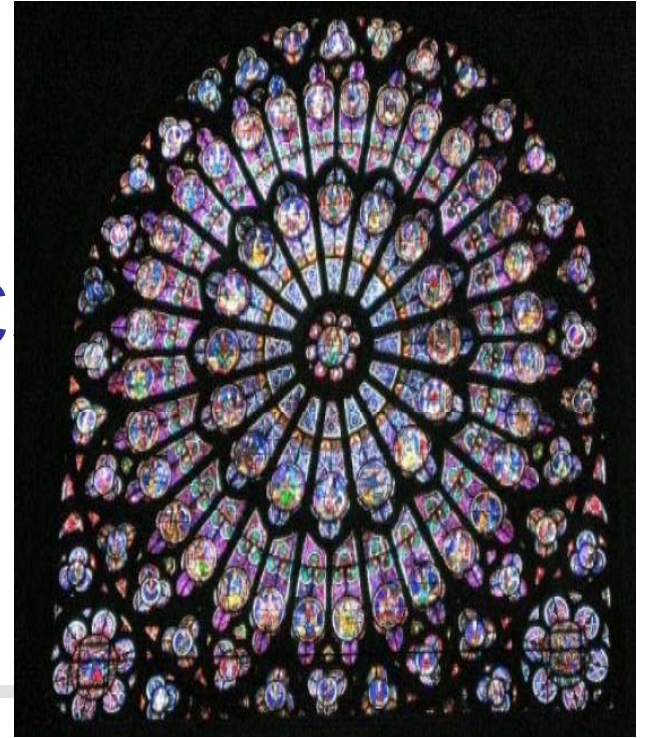


Catholic Health Ethic & Transformations



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Some General Trends in Bioethics

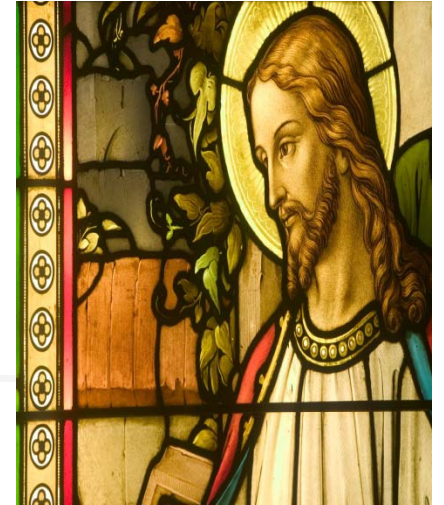
- Awareness of the limits of “principles”
- Emergence of relational understandings
- Institutional/organizational ethics
- Work on the full continuum of health
- Commercialization/commodification
- Recognition of global interdependence



Some Trends in Faith Based Ethics

- Situating health care ethics in our faith
- Recognizing the importance of ecclesiology for health care ethics
- Affirming the importance of health care ethics for mission
- Acknowledging the socio-cultural context & “legitimate cooperation”
- Integrating social justice & health ethics

Situating Ethics in Faith



- Crucial importance of faith for ethics
- Sources of moral wisdom
 - Scripture, tradition, especially magisterial teaching, experience, reason
- The experience of moral issues in the health care encounter
 - A place of evangelization and re-evangelization



Situating Health Care Ethics in Our Faith

- Faith-based Health Care Ethics
 - Importance of the Health Ethics Guide
 - Pastoral application of moral principles
 - Recognition of very limited human resources to do faith-based ethics
 - Ethicists & moral theologians
 - Linking health ethics to our social justice tradition



The Health Ethics Guide

- Health Ethics Guide
 - Importance in Catholic identity
 - The complexity of trying to bring a pastoral application of moral principles cannot be overestimated
 - The goal of a broad view of health ethics, including justice issues, is very important



Resources for Faith-based Ethics

- Increasingly complex issues over the full continuum of health care
- **Very** limited resources for the mandate
 - <20 doing “Catholic ethics” formally
 - Limited theological support for ethicists
 - Great pressures experienced by ethicists at the ‘coal face’ of pastoral response



The Importance of Ecclesiology for Health Ethics

- The role and place of the Church in the lives of patients, staff and society
- The ministry of care of all the baptized
- The ecclesial context in which practical, pastoral ethics is practiced is crucial
 - Our wonderful nuanced moral tradition
 - Divisive moral methodologies



Ethics as Central to Mission

- Deep and pervasive concerns re the identity and sustainability of Catholic health care
 - Pluralist world of patients & workers/staff
 - Loss of religious congregational leadership
- The coherence of the ministry of Christ and the institutional focus, especially acute care
 - Need to 'model' high-tech medicine?
 - Need to be prophetic & countercultural?
 - Witness of going where there is need?



The Socio-Cultural Context

- General:
 - Secular society
 - Rejection of religious voices from public discourse and debate
- Health care:
 - From common good to market good
 - Disease prevention/health promotion
 - Harm reduction (“lesser of two evils”)



Integrating Social Justice and Health Care Ethics

- The loss of our social justice tradition; inadequate integration into our health ethics
- Pope Benedict XVI *Caritas in Veritate*
 - Link life ethics to our social ethics
 - Reject the technological as an answer for spiritual and moral issues



Necessary Transformations

- First and foremost, transformation into "*the mind of Christ*"; recognizing morality as personal formation not primarily rules
- Formation of Christian conscience
 - Protection of conscience
- Prophetic response to innovation and change



New Areas Needing Work

- Disease prevention & health promotion
 - Harm reduction
- Long term care and rehabilitation issues
- Changing demographics and aging justice
- Genetics
- Neuroethics



Transformation of Leadership Development

- Formation of leaders of Catholic facilities
 - Catholics
 - Non-Catholics
 - “Foundations in Leadership” & what else?



Transforming Our Advocacy

- Linking with the parish and community
- Understanding “The Principle of Legitimate Cooperation”
- Respectful, informed participation in public discourse









