Thank You for Joining Us for Today’s Webinar

The program will begin at 1 p.m. ET.
The presentation is being recorded and will be emailed to you.

Catholic health care is on the front lines responding to the coronavirus outbreak in the United States. During this time, we pray for all those affected by the virus. CHA has created a webpage with information, prayers and resources from our members and other reliable sources related to COVID-19, available at:

www.chausa.org/coronavirus
Catholic Ethics and the Challenge of COVID-19
Part Four: Moral Distress on Caregivers and Patients Dying Alone

Co-sponsored by Georgetown University

May 7, 2020

Claudia Sotomayor, MD, D.Be.
Sarah Vittone, RN, D.Be., MSN
G. Kevin Donovan, MD, MA

Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University
Today’s Moderator

Brian M. Kane, Ph.D.
Senior Director, Ethics
The Catholic Health Association of the United States
Pandemic

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath – the most sacred of times? Cease from travel. Cease from buying and selling. Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is. Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life. Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart. Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands. (Surely that has come clear.) Do not reach out your hands. Reach out your heart. Reach out your words. Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love – for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, so long as we shall live.

~ Lynn Unger
Our Featured Speakers

Claudia Sotomayor, MD, D.Be.
Clinical Ethicist and Adjunct Assistant Professor
Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics,
Georgetown University Medical Center

Sarah Vittone, RN, DBe, MSN
Assistant Professor, School of Nursing and Health Studies, and Clinical Bioethicist, Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University

G. Kevin Donovan, MD, MA
Director, Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, and Professor of Pediatrics
Georgetown University
1. Case overview

2. Patient’s experience and moral distress

3. Moral distress in medical personnel
CASE

- Mrs. Smith is 70 years old, married, Catholic
- Post-transplant
- COVID-19 +
- ICU
- Declining
- Husband is isolated in hotel
Moral distress is the inability to act according to core values.
Patients’ and families’ experience

Emotional Distress

Moral Distress
Dying alone. Not being able to say goodbye.

Language Barriers

Cultural Barriers

Emotional Distress
Moral Distress

Asian Journal of Psychiatry

First COVID-19 suicide case in Bangladesh due to fear of COVID-19 and xenophobia: Possible suicide prevention strategies

Mohammed A. Mamun and Mark D. Griffiths

Additional article information

The novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has become a global concern.
Moral Distress in Medical Professionals

**Moral Distress** is the inability to act according to core values.

- Arise from uncertainty or constraint

**Moral Injury** is a consequence of failing to practice to the level of one’s values and commitment.

- Arise from unfamiliar, unexpected stress or circumstances
Medical Personnel Experience

- Fear
- Uncertainty
- PACE
- Patient's distress
- New protocols
- Helpless

Moral Distress
Catholic Identity in Organizations

• Respect for dignity
• Holistic care
• Justice
• Prioritizing the needs of the poor
• Contributing to the common good
• Need for prayer and support
The Role of Bioethics

Strategies to address moral distress

- Consult and Listen
- Build Moral Resilience
- Facilitation
- Preserve Moral Integrity
Moral Distress

Emotional Distress

Be Faithful

Have Hope

Find Connection

Care for Self
References


Q & A
Upcoming Ethics Webinars

Registration is now open for more sessions in this ethics series:

**May 14**
Part Five: Pandemic Public Surveillance - Issues of Prevention, Protection, and Privacy

**May 21**
Part Six: The Role of Medical and Nursing Students in a Pandemic

**May 28**
Part Seven: Personal Contact Tracing of COVID Patients

www.chausa.org/events/calendar-of-events
Thank You for Attending

An email will be sent with a recording of the webinar.

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