

## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION AND PREFACE<sup>1</sup>

Publication of the inaugural volume of The Saint John Paul II Journal of Bioethics offers three important opportunities for comment.

First, the electronic journal is the fruit of mediation and planning related to the ministry and enormous intellectual and cultural writings of Saint John Paul the Great. The mission of The Saint John Paul II Bioethics Center is drawn from the Pope's first encyclical *Redemptor Hominis*. A critical passage from that remarkable document is at the heart of everything the Center does:

The development of technology and the development of contemporary civilization, which is marked by the ascendancy of technology, demand a proportional development of morals and ethics. (n.15)

From that navigational Guidestar the journal draws its inspiration and topical focus. Each issue will collect articles, essays, and cultural expression keyed to a thematic element drawn from one or more works of Karol Wojtyla that develop the intersection of technology, morals, and ethics. The sources are rich and include the late Pope's pre-pontifical writing, his rich pontifical corpus, and his remarkable composition of prayers. Those sources have been conveniently assembled by EWTN and are easily accessed:

- Pre-pontifical writing: <http://ewtn.com/johnpaul2/writings/prepontifical.htm>
- Pontifical writings: <http://ewtn.com/johnpaul2/writings/pontifical.htm>
- Prayers: <http://ewtn.com/johnpaul2/writings/prayers/index.htm>

Second, publication calls for a brief preface to the contents of this volume. It presents three articles, one essay, and two cultural expressions of piety and beauty. Each draws inspiration from the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (EV).

*Truth and Cloning: Political Ideology, Scientific Integrity, and the Advent of /three Parent Children* by Kevin Semataska draws on Saint John Paul's warning in EV that truth cannot be altered by linguistic gymnastics and his challenge to all to "look the truth in the eye and to call things by their proper name, without yielding to convenient compromises or to the temptation of self-deception." The author develops various legislative agendas related to human embryonic stem cell research and concludes that several purposely conceal the massive scale of human cloning by altering well settled scientific definitions and mandating the destruction of untold millions of cloned human beings; an practice sure to bring about a crisis in public policy with the advent of three parent IVF technology.

In *Evangelium Vitae and Organ Donation* Andrew Kubick develops the Pope's insight in EV that organ donation – a precious gift – must be properly evaluated at the moral level.

---

<sup>1</sup> Reverend Deacon Thomas J. Davis, Jr. is the Director of The Saint John Paul II Bioethics Center and the Editor of the Center's Journal of Bioethics.

This requires an appropriate understanding of the specific medical and biological circumstances of a particular donation and the legal and professional standards governing it. The author develops the Pope's warning that, with respect to increased demand for unpaired vital organ donation, there not develop any practice in which "organs are removed without respecting objective and adequate criteria which verify the death of the donor."

In [\*Radical Autonomy and the Distortion of Medicine: A Reflection on Evangelium Vitae\*](#), Ryan Mayer offers a philosophical and cultural discussion on the meaning of the patient-physician relationship, the art of healing, and the danger identified in EV by John Paul the Great of "a notion of freedom which exalts the isolated individual in an absolute way" thereby contributing to a growing and ominous "culture of death." The author develops some consequences of that radical notion of autonomy, the threat it poses to the freedom of conscience of health care providers, and the damage it injects into the covenantal relationship of trust and respect that should mark the patient-physician relationship.

In [\*Therapeutic Salpingostomy\*](#) Thomas Cremona presents a challenge to Catholic theologians and health care providers alike. Drawing on John Paul's admonition in EV that "[h]uman life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth," he examines the tragic circumstance of ectopic pregnancy. Current thought and practice is developed in light of the relationship between various sections of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services including those that preclude direct abortion, the direct removal, destruction, or interference with implantation, and procedures whose sole immediate effect is the termination of pregnancy, as well as those addressing "extrauterine pregnancy." The author presents the fascinating case histories of two documented successful transfers of an embryo implanted in the wall of the fallopian tube to the uterus. In light of those cases and developments in modern microsurgery, he suggests reassessment of the current preference for salpingectomy over salpingostomy in Catholic medical ethics, and the potential for life saving therapeutic surgical interventions that preserve the life of mother and child as well as the mother's fertility.

The [\*Icon of Saint Josemaria Escriva\*](#) was commissioned by this editor in 1997 and was completed in 1998 by iconographer Marek Czarnicki. Pope John Paul II canonized the founder of Opus Dei on October 6, 2002. In his homily on that occasion the Pope quoted the newly canonized: "The ordinary life of a Christian who has faith, when he works or rests, when he prays or sleeps, at all times, is a life in which God is always present." This theme finds an echo in [\*Evangelium Vitae\*](#) where the Pope wrote: "The purpose of the Gospel, in fact, is to transform humanity from within and to make it new. Like the yeast which leavens the whole measure of dough, the Gospel is meant to permeate all cultures and give them life from within, so that they may express the full truth about the human person and about human life." The icon of Saint Josemaria contains several elements presenting these themes and is more fully described in the brief monograph accompanying the image.

[\*Mozart's Coronation Mass\*](#), performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at Saint Peter Basilica with Pope John Paul II, draws our attention to the liturgical and

sacramental foundations of the culture of life. In EV 84 Saint John Paul encouraged witness to reverence for life in liturgical and sacramental expression. The great classical composers often found Holy Mass a focus of their artistic genius. Mozart's Mass and its performance at the Vatican in 1985 is offered as a tribute to the good, the beautiful, and the true that permeates the culture of life proclaimed by the Saint.

---

Finally, this brief introduction to the Journal offers opportunity to invite submissions for future volumes. The topic for Volume 2 will allow free ranging selection from the entirety of the corpus of the Saint's writings. Exposition of the relationship of the selected text to the underlying mission of the Saint John Paul II Bioethics Center – the relationship between the development of technology, morals, and ethics – is of paramount significance. Articles, essays, and cultural expression in the multiplicity of media (including poetry, short stories, visual arts, music, and song are but some suggestions) are welcome. All submissions are subject to editorial suggestion and any written submissions selected for publication must assign copyright or an exclusive right to publish to The Saint John Paul II Bioethics Center. In the case of artwork, musical composition and performance, and similar cultural expression, the Center requires a more limited assignment of the right to publish the work in the journal.

Written submissions should be in Times New Roman font with the main text double-spaced in 12-point font. Footnotes should be single-spaced in 10-point font. Both the main text and footnotes should have justified margins. Artwork must be submitted in a digital format readable by standard Microsoft and Apple software. Music must be submitted in MP3 digital format. Video and audio-visual works may be submitted in any digital format that plays on standard Microsoft Windows Media Player or Apple QuickTime Player. All submissions shall be delivered via electronic mail to Rev. Deacon Thomas J. Davis, Jr. at the following address: [tdavis@holypostles.edu](mailto:tdavis@holypostles.edu). In rare cases where electronic submission is not possible, authors should contact the editor by email to make alternative arrangements.