

TOPIC AREAS

BIOETHICS & HEALTHCARE

Topic: Generations, Genetics and Health Care
Convener: Lisa Sowle Cahill, Boston College
Presenters: Brian Johnstone, Catholic University of America
Nicholas Kocklers, Loyola Marymount University
Marie Dietrich and Alison Benders, Ursuline College

The Bioethics and Health Care session included three presentations relating the conference theme “Generations” to bioethics. Brian Johnstone presented “Global Bioethics: The Contribution of the Theory of Gift.” Noting the field of moral theology is “in crisis,” he proposes the giving and receiving of gifts, drawn primarily from Jean-Luc Marion, as an alternative paradigm for moral theologians today. Nicholas Kocklers addressed “The Moral Significance of Biological Information: Moral Methodology and Emerging Biotechnology.” He gives particular attention to new methods of deriving stem cells, and the “ontological significance” of information about stem cells and their potential. Marie Dietrich and Alison Benders prepared “Ashley’s Treatment: Preserving Human Dignity and the Common Good through Agape.” They argue that the surgery in this case, performed on a radically disabled child, in order to facilitate home care, was not justified objectively, in light of the dignity and interests of the child.

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