



SaskEthics

An Ethics Newsletter for Catholic Healthcare Organizations in Saskatchewan

Summer: A great time to think about robots

Dear *SaskEthics* Readers,



A truly wondrous thing happened this year: the Catholic Church released a document addressing the ethical

implications of artificial intelligence (AI)! I don't think it would be an over statement to say that I have been waiting my whole life for this document. From the moment I watched my first episode of *Star Trek* when my family somehow managed to pick up Prince Albert's CTV channel at the lake, I knew that AI would have an impact on humanity similar to the industrial revolution. The ethics of it all have been on my mind ever since.

"Antiqua et Nova: Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence," explores the ways that AI could be applied to a variety of contexts, including healthcare. As with all technologies, the Church understands AI to be morally neutral. It is how we use it that makes it a tool for good or a weapon for evil.

After listing some of the ways that AI could be used to improve health care, the documents states, "If AI is used not to enhance but to replace the relationship between patients and healthcare providers [...] it would reduce a crucially important human relational structure to a centralized, impersonal, and unequal framework. Instead of encouraging solidarity with the sick and suffering, such applications of AI would risk worsening the loneliness that often accompanies illness [...]"

Although these words are written about AI, they ring true for all medical technologies. Consider for example the difference between feeding a resident who cannot eat independently, and setting up a feeding tube. Or the difference between staying at the bed side of a woman in labour, or turning on a fetal heart monitor and walking away. While these technologies have enabled our teams to "do more," they also run the risk of making us believe that the goal of health care is to accomplish tasks. "Antiqua et Nova" reminds us that our true mission is to establish relationships, something that is much harder, more time consuming, and ultimately more human than any other thing that we do.



St. Paul's Hospital



Catholic Health
Association of Saskatchewan

As you move into your summer, I encourage you to spend some time reflecting on the use of technology in your work place. In what ways does it bring you closer to your patients? Does it provide you with more time to build meaningful relationships? What are some of the ways that the technologies that you use are making it more difficult to connect with your patients?

Have a wonderful summer! And let me know if you watched any good science fiction lately. It might be science fact before you know it.

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CHAS Convention 2025
Thursday, Oct. 23 - Friday, Oct. 24

PILGRIMS OF HOPE
Nurturing Life, Healing the Wounded.

Sebastian Gomes
Jon Gilchrist
Nancy K. Phillips
Christopher Hrynkow
Mike Carotta


A Place for Everyone
How Pope Francis Ignited the Church's Mission to Serve People Over Ideas.
We welcome the public to this special presentation by [Sebastian Gomes](#)
7 PM on Thursday, October 23, 2025

Keynotes

- Neighbours and Strangers: Re-imagining 'Mission' in Pursuit of Wholistic Communities of Health and Healing
- I've Fallen and I Can Get Up: The Journey Into our True Selves as we Age
- Catholic Mental Health Awareness and Accompaniment
- Wellsprings of Hope: Practical Foundations for Transformative Hospitality that Heals the Wounded

Breakouts Check out the breakouts on [here](#)

Coming Soon
More information on a Catholic Health Panel
FEATURING
Corey Miller, Wayne Nogier, Carrie Dornstaude & Candace Kopec

 **Resurrection Parish, 3155 Windsor Park Rd, Regina**