



Integration & Ethical Reflection: Social Justice, Resource Allocation & End of Life Care

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Integrating Ethics and Spirituality

- Does our theology and spirituality influence our health care decisions?
 - Personally
 - Organizational mission & priorities
 - Public policy





Some Catholic Insights

- Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good.
 - Catechism #2288
- If morality requires respect for the life of the body, it does not make it an absolute value.
 - Catechism #2289



15th International Health Care Congress

“Profound changes are affecting the traditional structures of a society that is increasingly globalized and has difficulty in relating to the individual, while medicine is involved in developing diagnostic and therapeutic methods which are ever more complex and effective, but often available only to limited groups of people.”

John Paul II, November 2000



Catholic Spirituality

- The Transcendent is a WHO (not a what)
- That WHO is
 - Creator
 - Triune-relationship and mutuality
 - Incarnational
 - Healing/Salvation
 - Resurrection and Life
 - Lived in communion



Moral Theology/Ethics

- Decisions about
 - Good decisions
 - Right action
- How do we judge the right and good?
 - Deontological
 - Teleological
 - Virtue-based



Sources of Moral Wisdom

- Scripture
- Tradition, especially Magisterial teaching
- Experience
- Reason



Catholic Social Teaching

- Dignity of each person
- Social nature of persons and solidarity with the whole of creation
- Subsidiarity
- Preferential option for the poor
- The common good



The Common Good

“...the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”

Gaudium et Spes (Para 74)





The Socio-Economic Determinants of Health

- Social inequality
- Poverty & marginalization
 - Nutrition
 - Housing
- Meaningful work
- Education
- Gender
- Access to health care



Why Resource Allocation?

- Allocation

- A decision to apportion resources
- One can allocate a budget, bonus or scarcity

- Rationing

- A particular kind of allocation decision
- Carries the notion of scarcity



Levels of Resource Allocation

Macro (System)



Meso (Institution/Organization)



Micro (Bedside/Individual)



Ethical Resource Allocation

- Consistent with our goals and fundamental values (mission)
- Utilizes an ethically sound process
- Determines and orders our fundamental values (so they function as criteria for choice)



The Experience of Prioritizing and Allocating

- How have we prioritized resources in Canadian health care?
- How have Catholic organizations done?
- How do our fundamental values and beliefs direct us?





- How might an integration of our spirituality and social justice teaching help us to allocate resources to end of life care?



EOL Care in Canada

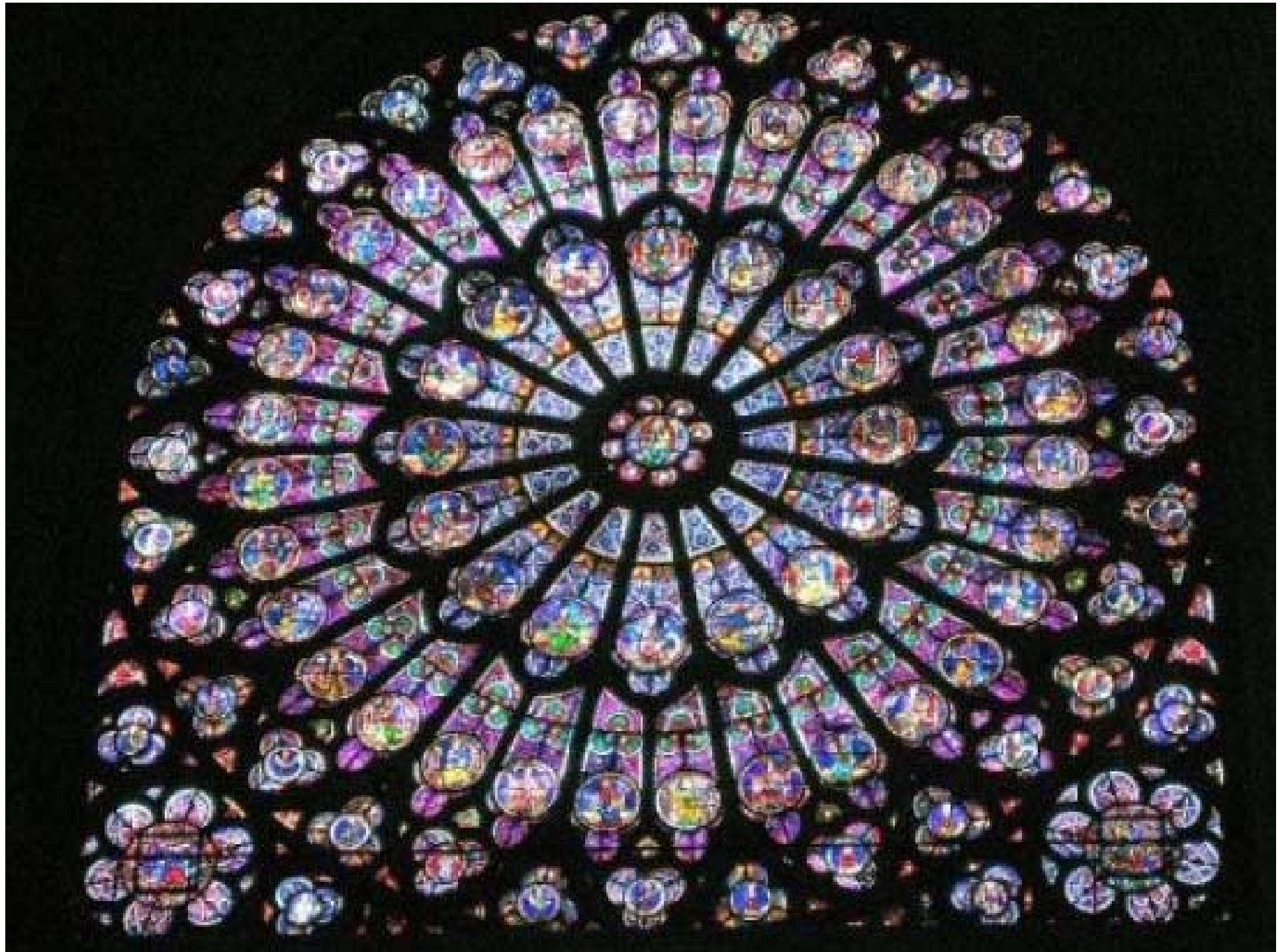
- Balfour Mount, Ken McKinnon & pioneers
- 1995 *Of Life and Death*
- 2000 *Quality End of Life Care: The Right of Every Canadian*
- 2005 *Still Not There: Quality End of Life Care: A Progress Report*





Dying in Canada

- ¼ million die each year
- 75% over 65yrs
- 75% in hospital and long term care
- 5-10% receive integrated palliative care (90% are cancer patients)
- Resource limits
 - Rural-urban; home & community care
 - Recent cuts





Can we Put it All Together in EOL Care?

- Scripture
 - Incarnation, Healing and Reconciliation, Resurrection Destiny
- Tradition and magisterial teaching
 - Justice & the common good; life is precious but not an absolute value
- Experience
 - EOL still not done well for many; palliative care
- Reason
 - We have a duty to do better!

