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2009 convention - Keynotes Address on DVD

Dr. Margaret Somerville

Michael Panicola, PhD



**Dr. Margaret A. Somerville**

Samuel Gale Professor of Law, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, and Founding Director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University, Montréal.

**LESSONS FROM THE BIRDS: SEARCHING FOR A SHARED ETHICS**

The challenge today is to find shared values that allow us to be both a "me" and a "we" in the world. To achieve that duality, we will need to balance the needs and rights of individuals and protection of the community. We form, share and pass on values through buying into a "shared story". To ensure our story does not disintegrate and continues to be enriched, we must engage in mutually respectful conversation. This requires respect for various freedoms, many of which are currently under serious threat. The focus of my work in recent years has been about what is needed for a shared ethics. We can no longer assume that we all share our most fundamental values. This lecture will address the changes in values formation and content with reference to health care using current examples to illustrate those changes.



**Michael Panicola, PhD**

Corporate Vice President of Ethics for SSM Health Care in St. Louis, Missouri; Adjunct Professor of Health Care Ethics, Theological Studies, Health Management and Policy, Center for Health Care Ethics, St. Louis University, USA.

**CHANGING ECCLESIAL CONTEXTS, DEVELOPMENTS IN CATHOLIC ETHICS, AND THE IMPACT ON CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE**

Catholic health care has always been either directly or indirectly affected by the ecclesial context in which it operates as well as developments in Catholic ethics. In recent decades the ecclesial context within Catholicism has shifted considerably away from what might be called Vatican II openness to Post-Vatican II retrenchment. This shift has had a pervasive impact on Catholic ethics and subsequently on Catholic health care in terms of its self-understanding or identity and delivery of care. This session will explore the shift in ecclesial context and its impact on Catholic ethics and Catholic health care. It will also highlight some positive possibilities and directions for the future for Catholic health care as it seeks to continue Jesus' healing ministry in complex, changing circumstances.

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