

## Book Proposal Outline

May 9, 2020

Title: **“Bioethics: foundations and emerging issues”**

### 1. Synopsis and overview:

In commemoration of 20 years (10 colloquia) of the International Association of Catholic Bioethics\*, this book will (a) elaborate on some ethical methods and foundations that have guided our consensus statements, and (b) apply them in discussing emerging issues and cases in bioethics that will likely be significant in the next 20 years.

Health care is evolving rapidly. New diseases, advances in research and technology, digital medicine and other factors raise ethical questions that have not been encountered by previous generations. There are, however, fundamental ethical considerations that have guided the art of medicine, for example, respecting human dignity, fostering relationships, caring for vulnerable persons, and promoting the common good. Although this book draws on Catholic ethical reflections and on the thought of Bernard Lonergan\*\* to articulate some of these ethical considerations and apply them, it will be written using terminology and reasoning that will be accessible to a broad audience.

\*The International Association of Catholic Bioethics (IACB) is a community of bioethicists and providers of health and spiritual care. Founded in 2005, the IACB supports investigating and discussing emerging or controversial ethical issues in health care and biomedical research, especially those that concern the most vulnerable in society. These investigations and discussions engage with religious faith and are informed by the perspectives of affected persons, medical and other empirical research, history, philosophical, ethical, and theological reflection.

\*\*Bernard Lonergan, S.J. (1904-1984) is recognized as an important Canadian thinker. He developed the ideas of Augustine and Thomas Aquinas in relation to contemporary analytical and continental philosophy. He also addressed a range of topics in philosophy, theology, and economics. The University of Toronto Press has published his works in a 25-volume series.

### 2. Table of contents

Bioethics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Global and Disability Perspectives

Introduction

1. Method in bioethics

2. Global and disability perspectives and bioethics

Part 1 – Fundamentals of bioethics

3. Human dignity

4. Vulnerability
5. Autonomy and interdependence
6. Structure of the human good
7. Essentialism and development
8. Natural law
9. Social justice, human rights, and bioethics

#### Part 2 – Emerging Issues

10. Gene editing
11. Neuro-ethics
12. Environment and health
13. Digital health
14. Access to health care and economics
15. Disability ethics
16. Epidemics and pandemics
17. Race and bioethics
18. Aging and dying in the 21 st century

#### 3. Comparable books on this topic:

There are some surveys of Catholic reflections and positions in bioethics (list) but none that were written primarily to engage university and professional development learners. This book offers case-based learning with commentaries from international perspectives.

Few books on Catholic bioethics draw from both social ethics and bioethics.

No book currently draws on the thought of Bernard Lonergan or employs his unique method for investigations in bioethics.

This book is also original in that many of its authors will have collaborated with one another on bioethical investigations and discussions for over 20 years.

#### 4. Potential readers and audiences:

- upper-level undergraduate and graduate students in bioethics and theological ethics, especially at Catholic universities around the world;
- select chapters will be appropriate for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students or continuing education learners in health care, especially at Catholic universities around the world;
- members of national and international Catholic and other faith-based healthcare organisations;
- researchers and policy makers who are interested in ethical insights and informed perspectives on cutting-edge issues;
- Since the IACB is the bioethics advisor to the Order of Malta, which is engaged in health care, we can count on the book being advertised and promoted through the Order of Malta's national and international organisations and members.

#### 5. Methodology for completion:

- all authors will have been engaged in prior IACB colloquia or be familiar with the process and outputs of these colloquia.
- one or more authors with expertise in methodological issues will provide input into the development of each chapter.
- each chapter will be written by a lead author who will have co-authors who bring a sufficient range of skills to the topic.
- all authors will be supported by an editorial team, which will include periodic videoconferencing meetings, and have access to a common bibliographic database.
- from initial funding, the services of a graduate student will be secured to support coordination of this project.

#### 6. Timetable for completion:

- draft versions of each chapter will be completed by Sept. 19, 2021, which is the beginning of the 2021 week-long colloquium to which all authors will be invited.
- a completed draft book will be submitted to the publisher by Dec. 2021 (3 months following the colloquium).
- the completed book will be launched with the 2021 colloquium outputs by June 2022 (in time for the next academic year).

#### 7. CV of editors and lead authors of writing teams:

- TBD.

#### 8. Funding and potential publishers:

- initial funding of a Foundation has been secured to subsidize work on this book
- possibility of co-funding from another source
- One or more sample chapters can be submitted with a completed book proposal to a potential publisher (e.g., University of Toronto Press, Notre Dame Press).