

2-1-1998

[Book Review of] *Core Readings in Medical Ethics*,
edited by Patrick Guinan, M.D. and Ted Jagielo,
M.D.

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Recommended Citation

Diamond, Eugene F. (1998) "[Book Review of] *Core Readings in Medical Ethics*, edited by Patrick Guinan, M.D. and Ted Jagielo, M.D.," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 65 : No. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/lmq/vol65/iss1/10>

knowledge in both the natural and social sciences, its careful and precise argumentation, it is indeed comparable to St. *Thomas's Summa Theologiae*.

- Patrick Lee
Franciscan University
of Steubenville

Core Readings in Medical Ethics

Patrick Guinan, M.D. and Ted Jagielo, M.D., Editors

Knights of Columbus Press, Chicago, Illinois, 175 pages, 1996

This book was compiled as a project of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Chicago. It is intended as part of the Guild's outreach to the medical students of the six medical schools of Chicago. Since there are very few medical schools in the country which have an introductory course in bioethics which partakes of the Christian-Hippocratic tradition, this book can be an invaluable asset in establishing dialogue between students and practitioners.

The book contains fifteen articles which are aimed at covering the gamut of philosophical and clinical issues in medical ethics. Much of the material is drawn from articles previously printed in *The Linacre Quarterly*. The introductory papers are aimed at an indoctrination in the theological and philosophical background of medical practice. Pope John Paul II's allocution to the International Congress of Catholic Physicians establishes the tone of basic human rights and service. Father Stanley Jaki's erudite and comprehensive consideration of the *Purpose of Healing*, first delivered at the 1992 Annual Convention as its keynote address is augmented by an original article on the *Physician as Teacher and Prophet* by Rev. Jerome Listeki, Moral Theologian from the Archdiocesan Major Seminary, who serves as the chaplain of the Chicago Guild.

There are three organizational statements in the book: the statement on *Sex Education* from the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, a pastoral statement on *Condom Distribution* by the New York Bishops and a statement on the *Ethics of Gene Therapy* by the Catholic Union of Great Britain. The NFCPG statement has

received wide distribution as the seminal article on education for wholesome chastity. The New York Bishops' statement presents a bold Catholic witness against the background of a hostile political situation in the Empire State. It is also a response to the unfortunate *Many Faces of Aids* statement which had to be withdrawn by the NCCB as a scandalous and embarrassing endorsement of condoms for high risk adolescents. The British statement which was a submission to the committee on the Ethics of Gene Therapy is unfortunately quite superficial perhaps as the result of the constraints imposed by that Committee.

The articles by Keith Crutcher on *Fetal Research* and by Kristine Severyn on *Abortifacient Contraception* are comprehensive and didactic and of practical value to students. The papers by Msgr. Cormac Burke on *Marriage and Contraception* and by Father John Bamberger on the *Mystery of Suffering* are largely theological in background and exhortative in tone. They provide important messages to the medical student who arrives with the constricted view imposed by the scientific emphasis of pre-medical curricula.

The article by Dr. Joanne Angelo on *Psychiatric Sequelae of Abortion* will be familiar to Catholic Medical Society members who are acquainted with her empathetic clinical approach. Dr. Angelo's article is also noteworthy for being the only article in this volume which was written by an M.D. The excessive reliance on clergy and Ph.D.s from the basic sciences could be the basis for a criticism of the content of the book.

Some subjects such as euthanasia are treated at length, others such as sterilization are omitted entirely.

Controversial subjects such as food and drink for the terminally ill are not treated in depth although Bishop Myers' *Instruction for Health Care Administrators* does allude to the subject from a pastoral viewpoint. Artificial reproduction in the light of *Donum Vitae* is another matter which would have been a valuable addition to the book. This subject is given a brief consideration in the aforementioned British paper in genetic ethics.

This book deserves wide distribution among medical students and is also quite appropriate as an addition to the bioethics shelf of practitioners and academics. The book is available in bulk from the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Chicago and has been used by several

guilds as a premium to be distributed to new and old members at the time of payment of annual dues. This is precisely the kind of educational publication which can be used to establish lines of communication between Catholic physicians and those students, residents, and fellows with whom they come in contact.

- **Eugene F. Diamond, M.D.**
Loyola University

Love and Family

by
Mercedes Arzu-Wilson

Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 373 pages (paperback), \$19.95, 1996

What is the basic unit of society? Is it the classroom? No! Is it the workplace? No! Is it the village? No! It is the family. It is love that binds the family together.

Mrs. Wilson has subtitled her book, "Raising a traditional family in a secular world."

She is probably closer to the Pope than anyone in this country. Her brother has been elected president of Guatemala.

Her book is divided into four parts, each of which is a book in itself. They are: I. The Family, the Center of Life; II. Raising Responsible Adults; III. Educational Warfare; IV. Natural vs. Unnatural Family Planning.

The United States not only leads other developed countries in divorce rate, abortion rate, teenage pregnancy rate, but also in percentage of violent deaths among teenagers. With five percent of the world's population, the United States consumes half of the world's illegal drugs.

The chapters on raising responsible adults include tips for good listening, tips for developing friendships, the importance of self-discipline and development of responsibility and self-worth.

Values are taught by word and example. Without love generously supplied by parents, children may seek love from the first person who offers any type of attention. Parents must be prepared to refute propaganda that outside "experts" may offer their children.