



ST. ANDRÉ CONNECTION

With news and information from the Saint André International Center for Ethics and Integrity & the Chateau Saint André Center

Issue 2026-1

Dear St André Friends,

We are pleased to send you our second Connection Newsletter with some information about past and upcoming Center events, as well as news about your own ethics-related activities. As this Newsletter will show, we continue to expand our activities. We are encouraged by the positive evaluations that participants have been sharing with us following their attendance of a Center activity. But we are particularly honored that several participants in previous Center activities have returned to attend a second and even a third seminar. Thank you!

Experience has also taught us that many of our attendees learned about the different events not by receiving an email from us, but indirectly. We are therefore most grateful if you can continue to forward any information received about upcoming Center events with colleagues and students.

The Editors



CONGRATULATIONS

Fr. Andrea Ciucci, PhD, who has been a speaker in two offerings of the seminar on the Ethics of End-of-Life care, has been appointed on April 10, 2026 by Pope Leo XIV as the Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy for Life. His role is comparable with that of Chief Operating Officer. He follows in the footsteps of Mgr. Renzo Pegoraro who was appointed President of the Academy last year.



Marian Russell, OTD, MS, has received her Master Degree in Bioethics from Creighton University. Dr. Russell is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy at Creighton University in Omaha (USA). She serves the St André International Center for Ethics and Integrity as liaison to the State of Nebraska, where the Center is legally incorporated.



Shafik Daharamsi, PhD, who serves the St. André International Center as a Board Director, was inducted on March 14, 2026, as Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice. Dr. Dharamsi is Professor & Strategic Advisor to Executive Leadership University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas (USA).

Editorial team: **Jos Welie & Linda Scheirton**. Please send information about your activities in ethics that you would like to share with other friends of the St. André Center to: info@chateausaintandre.center

ETHICS OF HERITAGE PRESERVATION

As the renovation activities of the small chateau in St. André d'Olérargues are progressing, we became aware that for the past two centuries, quite ardent debates have been held on the ethics of heritage preservation. For example, the famous British architect John Ruskin (1819-1900) insisted that monuments should be maintained in their exact historical state, evading any and all modifications. In his perspective, even meticulous attempts at repairing a building, using the exact same materials, are already a modernization of the building, quite simply because the repairs are done today and cannot be done back in time; and likewise, the materials are chosen and applied today and are hence not original. If this hands-off stance meant that a fragile monument would continue to crumble and eventually die, so be it. Ruskin hence forcefully disagreed with his contemporary, the equally famous French architect Viollet-le-Duc (1814-1879), who was known for his attempts at resurrecting monuments to achieve maximum stylistic purity, even adding embellishments that may never have existed during the building's history.

Neither extreme position has many adherents today, but similar ethical dilemmas about preservation of historic buildings continue to surface. For example: Should solar panels be installed on historic buildings, which are notoriously difficult to heat as it is? Should guard rails be installed on monumental bridges to prevent suicides? May doors be widened, floor levels changed, and elevators installed to make them accessible? Does it make a difference whether changes are visible? And if (in)visibility matters, whose views count the most: Historians, neighbors, tourists, owners?

In the past century, many hundreds of charters, codes of ethics, protocols and still other documents guiding and regulating preservation practices have been issued. This abundance notwithstanding, as a scholarly discipline the field of heritage ethics is still in its infancy, certainly, when compared to other fields of applied ethics such as medical ethics, business ethics, or even AI ethics. To advance this intriguing field of applied ethics, the St. André

International Center is developing a set of resources pages. By going to the page dedicated to heritage ethics (<https://saintandre.center/institutes/heritage-ethics-institute>) you will find, links to:

- Codes of ethics and other normative guidance documents
- Books
- Thematic journal issues, articles and book chapters
- Associations, centers and programs
- Courses and other educational opportunities

The Center has also embarked on a survey of university-based degree programs in heritage preservation to determine which programs include in their curricula a course or at least a course component on the ethical aspects of heritage preservation. Center president Jos Welie will present the results of this survey at the upcoming conference of the International Association of Education in Ethics (see below).



Jos Welie, Linda Scheirton and Tristan Welie attended the 2025 fall conference of TheoPhilos, the International Committee on Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration. The conference was held at the University of Liège in Belgium. A report of the meeting is available at: <https://theophilos.icomos.org/>

3RD ANNUAL SEMINAR ON ETHICS OF END-OF-LIFE CARE: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The largest seminar yet: 25 participants representing five continents convened in Rome for the 2026 Seminar on Ethics of End-of-Life Care. Among the participants were three alumni from previous seminars. Even a morning of non-stop rain, no less on the day with the longest excursion, could not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. The group was also able to visit the recently restored Sant Maria dell'Orazione et Morte, the church and crypt of a brotherhood dedicated since the 16th century to the burial of abandoned corpses in the countryside around Rome.

Registration for the 2027 offering of this seminar has already begun.



Reflection for the final day of the seminar

Kao-Cheng Huang (participant in the 2026 seminar on the Ethics of End-of-Life Care)

In a church next to the Teutonic Cemetery in Vatican City, I noticed something that stayed with me: two paintings on opposite sides of the same wall—one showing the birth of Jesus, the other his resurrection. We have to walk around the wall to see both. And yet, knowing they're there—back-to-back, separated only by stone—struck me. Birth on one side, rebirth on the other. Not in the same view, but sharing the same space, as if quietly suggesting they belong together.

When I stood before the birth scene, I felt the fragility and hope of new beginnings. When I walked to the other side and saw the resurrection, I encountered transformation—life continuing beyond what seemed like the end. But maybe these aren't really two separate moments. Maybe they're part of the same story, just seen from different angles. The wall holds both. We're the ones who have to move between them to understand.

Many spiritual traditions—whether it's the Christian hope of resurrection or the Buddhist understanding of consciousness continuing—suggest that what looks like an ending might just be a change of form. Faith, then, isn't just believing in something. It's trusting that life doesn't just stop. It shifts, it hides for a while, and then it emerges again. Winter doesn't kill life—it prepares the ground for spring.

As we wrap up these five days focused on end-of-life care, today isn't really an ending—it's more like a doorway. Just as birth and resurrection are held on opposite sides of the same wall, endings and beginnings are two faces of the same passage. Everything we've explored—being present, showing compassion, honoring dignity, learning how to truly accompany someone—it doesn't stop here. It lives on in the people we care for, in how we show up, in what we carry forward.

So, this isn't really the end of the seminar. It's more like a new beginning. We're not leaving with everything wrapped up neatly. We're leaving with something to carry—a deeper sense of life, death, and the thread that connects them.

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2025 FALL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR ETHICS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (SEAC)

From October 8 to 10, SEAC (<https://seac-online.org/>) held its annual conference at Villanova University near Philadelphia (USA). The 2026 theme was “The Challenges of Migration in the 21st Century”. Greg Wright and Jos Welie, co-directors of the 2025 bioethics seminar jointly organized by Snow College (Utah, USA) and the Chateau Saint André Center, presented on the innovative study-abroad opportunity for Snow students (see the Fall 2025 Connection Newsletter for a brief report). Snow student Josh Cox was the third speaker on the panel discussion. Linking to the main theme of the 2026 SEAC conference, the speakers reflected on “The learning benefits of being a foreigner even if for a brief while.”



Today, many university students prefer the perceived comfort and safety of their social bubbles, where their beliefs are affirmed and reinforced. These developments are daunting for ethics educators. For this discipline requires students to be (emotionally) comfortable with being (intellectually) uncomfortable. By spending ten days in an academically rigorous study-abroad program in Rome, the participating students were encouraged to geographically and intellectually leave their bubbles.

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE



Three-time St André seminar participant Tsurriel Rashi presented a poster during the 2026 annual conference of the Pontifical Academy for Life

By always scheduling the seminar on the Ethics of End-of-Life Care right before the annual conference of the Pontifical Academy for Life (i.e., the Vatican’s advisory body on bioethics issues), seminar participants can extend their stay in Rome with two days to attend the conference. The theme of the 2026 conference was “Healthcare for All: Sustainability and Equity”.

A report of the conference can be found online at: <https://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/events/assemblea-2026--healthcare-for-all1.html>



UPCOMING ST. ANDRÉ EVENTS

June 19-23, 2026: 12th Biennial Colloquium of the International Association of Catholic Bioethics (Rochefort-du-Gard, France). The Chateau Saint André Center will host this Colloquium, which will take place in France at the Sanctuaire Notre Dame in Rochefort-du-Gard (near Avignon). The theme is: “**Wise Decisions: The place of love in AI-informed health care.**” Attendance is limited but there are still some spots available. More info at: <https://chateausaintandre.center/IACB2026>.

July 20-24, 2026: Health Care Ethics: Catholic Perspectives (Rome, Italy). This will be the second offering of this intensive seminar, organized by the St. André International Center. It will be organized with assistance of the Pontifical Academy for Life and take place at the Academy’s headquarters in the Trastevere neighborhood of Rome. Registrations are ongoing. More info at: <https://saintandre.org>.

August 20, 2026: A conversation with Lydia Dugdale on hope (St André d’Olérargues, France). Dr. Dugdale is a physician and medical ethicist. She holds the Dorothy L. and Daniel H. Silberberg Chair at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City and directs the Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. She will talk about her forthcoming book on hope. To attend her presentation, followed by drinks and an informal dinner, please email: info@chateausaintandre.center .



October 22-26, 2026: Ethics Educators Workshop (St André d’Olérargues, South of France). This will be the second offering of this intensive seminar, organized by the St. André International Center. Building forth on the Ethics Education Program of UNESCO, this workshop is designed to enhance the educational skills and abilities of ethics teachers. We explicitly invite academics who soon will start, or have just started, teaching ethics. However, senior ethics educators will also find this workshop to be very stimulating and helpful. More info at: <https://saintandre.org>.

February 24-28, 2027: Ethics of End-of-Life Care: Contributions from the Arts and Humanities, (Rome, Italy). This will be the fourth offering of this intensive seminar, organized by the St. André International Center with assistance of the Pontifical Academy for Life at the Vatican. Seminar participants can also attend the annual conference of the Academy which takes place in Rome immediately afterwards (March 1-2, 2027). More info at: <https://saintandre.org>.

UPCOMING ETHICS EVENTS ORGANIZED BY ST ANDRÉ FRIENDS

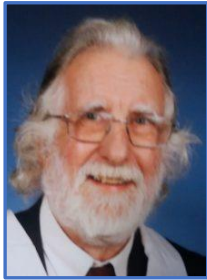
June 9-11, 2026: Intensive Bioethics Course (IBC47) (Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA). More information at <https://ibc.georgetown.edu>

June 24-26, 2026: Annual conference of the International Association for Education in Ethics Education (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Hosted by the Department of Ethics, Law and Humanities, Amsterdam University Medical Center. The 2026 theme is “Shaping the Future: Educating Responsible Professionals”. More information at: <https://nrin.nl/conferenceonethics/>

August 25-28, 2026: 38th Conference of the European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Healthcare (Rotterdam, The Netherlands). The 2026 theme is “The Dynamics of Medical Transformations: Society, Technology, Knowledge and Ethics”. More info at: <https://espmh.org/>

Sept. 20-22, 2026: AI4Peace 2026 International Symposium (Rome, Italy). Organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life and the Pontifical Lateran University. More info at: <https://ai4peace.ai/>

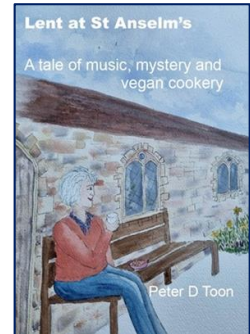
NEW PUBLICATONS



Peter Toon published the lecture he gave at the 2023 Bioethics Colloquium:

Toon, P.D. (2025). What is Illness? *British Journal of General Practice*. April 5 online issue. Online at: <https://bjgp.life.com/what-is-illness/>

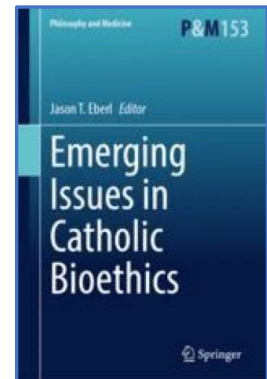
Peter's latest novel, *Lent at St Andrews: A tale of music, mystery, and vegan cookery in a cathedral city*, was published in 2025 as well. Peter makes the electronic and printed version available to anybody who makes a donation to the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral. More info at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/peter-toon-lentatstanselms>



Jason Eberl is the editor of a new volume entitled "Emerging Issues in Catholic Bioethics". The book explores themes not usually found in textbooks on Catholic bioethics. The 15 chapters are organized in four sections:

- Persons with Diverse Identities
- Public and Global Health
- Pandemic Policies
- Artificial Intelligence

William Sullivan and **Henk ten Have** have also contributed chapters to this 2026 volume. The volume is published by Springer; more info at: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-08862-8>



STILL MORE PUBLICATIONS

Brown, C., **Solbakk**, J.H. (2026). Moral distress: sometimes, there is no fix. *Med Health Care and Philos.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11019-026-10343-5> .

Huang, K.C. (2026). Facing Climate Anxiety Through Huayan's Meditation and Interdependence. *Trends in Peace and Sustainability* 3(3): 1–5. <https://nerps.org/2026/03/12/2026-3-trends3/>.

Laval, G & **Welie**, J.V.M (2025).: Histoire et Architecture du Château de Saint-André d'Oliérargues. *Rhodanie*, 175: 37-55.

Lysaught, T (Ed.) (2026). Thematic journal issue on Political Love. *Journal of Moral Theology*, Vol. 15, 1. Table of contents online at: <https://jmt.scholasticahq.com/article/155049-table-of-contents-vol-15-issue-1-political-love>.

Revol, F. (2025). The Dignity of the Human Person through the Theology of Continuous Creation. In: T. Magnin, P. **Gagnon** & P. Rodrigues (eds.): *Sciences, Technosciences and Faith in the Era of Integral Ecology*, Paris, Saint-Léger; 149-164.

Wiesing, U. (2026) Lifetime and world-time in accelerated medicine. An essay on the consolation of synchronisation. *Med Health Care and Philos* 29, 125–132.

Please send us your recent publications so we can include them here in the next newsletter. It's a great way to get to know what topics people are working on.