

# WHAT IS BASIC HEALTH CARE

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINE

WHAT DOES THE ONE HAVE TO DO WITH THE OTHER

**Karen Shields Wright, MS, DC**  
Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice  
CAPP-USA

**Joseph E. Capizzi, PhD**  
The Catholic University of America  
Professor of Moral Theology



**CAPP-USA**

# WHAT IS BASIC HEALTH CARE

## PRESENTATION

### **Dr. Joseph Capizzi**

- Theological underpinnings of Catholic Social Teachings (CST) as related to Health Care
- On the “right” to health and healthcare – by reference to the Tradition
- Health and Healthcare in CST

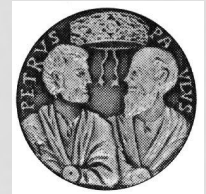
### **Dr. Karen Wright**

- What is ‘Basic’ in Health Care
- ‘Health’ Definitions, Determinants & CST
- What is basic to ‘Care’

## Break

## INTERACTIVE SESSION

- Reflection & Discussion
- Report Back with Q&A



# WHAT IS BASIC HEALTH CARE OUTLINE

- On the “Right” to Health and Healthcare – by reference to the Tradition
- Medicine and Its Relationship to Health
- Health and Healthcare in Catholic Social Doctrine

*Joseph Capizzi, PhD*



# THE RIGHT TO HEALTH & HEALTHCARE

- Why is this an issue?
  - In the U.S., a perception of a healthcare crisis;
    - many millions uninsured; many millions underinsured
    - fatigue among healthcare professionals about their professions
    - uncertain sense of meaning of healthcare



## THE RIGHT TO HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

The Catholic Church's intervention

- claims health and healthcare are Fundamental Rights
- claims a role for the State (the institutions of governance) in meeting the current injustice
  - injustice it perceives as domestic and international

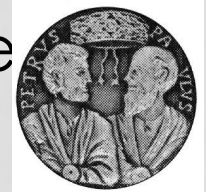
And yet a difficult and sometimes divisive issue

- Political Questions
  - is it a Right?
  - if a Right, how to be met?
  - intermingling of delivery of healthcare with other political agendas, e.g., advancement of gay marriage, “reproductive” rights, and so on.

## SOME TEXTS

### CCC 2288

- 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.
- *Concern for the health* of its citizens requires that society help in the attainment of living-conditions that allow them to grow and reach maturity: food and clothing, housing, health care, basic education, employment, and social assistance



## SOME TEXTS

### CCC 2211

- The political community has a duty to honor the family, to assist it, and to ensure especially:
  - the freedom to establish a family, have children, and bring them up in keeping with the family's own moral and religious convictions;
  - the right to private property, to free enterprise, to obtain work and housing, and the right to emigrate;
  - in keeping with the country's institutions, the right to medical care, assistance for the aged, and family benefits;



## SOME MORE TEXTS

*Pacem in terris*, no. 11 (1963, Pope John XXIII)

- We must speak of man's rights. Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and, finally, the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill-health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own he is deprived of the means of livelihood.





## STILL MORE TEXTS!

A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform:  
Protecting Human Life, Promoting Human Dignity, Pursuing the  
Common Good, The US Catholic Bishops, 1993

- "Every person has a right to adequate health care. This right flows from the sanctity of human life and the dignity that belongs to all human persons, who are made in the image of God." Health care is more than a commodity; it is a basic human right, an essential safeguard of human life and dignity...."
- draws explicitly on the assertion of the right in *Pacem in terris*



## A FINAL TEXT

From the same US Bishops' document

- “The existing patterns of health care in the United States do not meet the minimal standard of social justice and the common good. The substantial inequity of our health care system can no longer be ignored or explained away. The principal defect is that more than 35 million persons do not have guaranteed access to basic health care.”

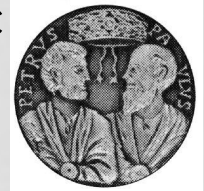


# MEDICINE & ITS RELATIONSHIP TO HEALTH

- “The existing patterns of health care in the United States do not meet the minimal standard of social justice and the common good. The substantial inequity of our health care system can no longer be ignored or explained away. The principal defect is that more than 35 million persons do not have guaranteed access to basic health care.”

Note: the Bishops move beyond the claim about the “right to health/healthcare” to a judgment about current situation and policy. *We are in an unjust situation that needs fixing.*

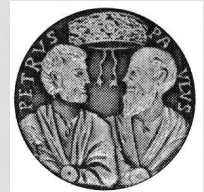
- reference to “system” and “social justice” implicates governance: governance must step in to address the injustice.
- further, the statement introduces the category of “basic health care.”



# RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

In these quotations, the Bishops follow *Pacem in terris* in claiming there is a “right to healthcare”

- some, even within the Catholic Church have questioned the “rights” claim
  - either because of a suspicion about rights in general or about the role of the state in meeting this right.
  - We’ll not argue either of those: it’s clear the Church and her bishops understand this to be a right, and that the state has at least some role in the fulfillment of that right.



# INJUSTICE AND HEALTH

The Bishops' claim points squarely (if not only) at the medical profession, because...

- the ends of medicine, that is its “goals” or purposes, are:
  - the restoration or improvement of health and the prevention of disease and illness
    - to cure illness or disease
    - to ease pain
- healthcare professionals have taken that obligation to pursue those goals

# THE GOALS OF MEDICINE

The Bishops, and the Tradition upon which they draw, explicitly connect the good of healthcare to the sanctity of the human person

- not an airy claim, but a normative one
  - the sanctity and dignity of the person becomes a measure of proper medical practice and societal response to the needs of the vulnerable.
  - the “measure” is Christ, both the vulnerable man, made to suffer and die on the Cross, and Christ as physician, responding to the needs of the vulnerable in his midst.
  - expands the conception of health beyond the materialist reduction, but also imposes limits
    - e.g., “health” means more than bodily; and yet no pursuit of physical immortality.

# OBLIGATIONS

By entering the profession, the Catholic provider embraces certain obligations:

- His or her skill or training obliges responsiveness to illness;
  - All men are so obliged, of course, but the specifics of the training entail a different kind of responsiveness measured by the “profession” of healing;
  - For instance, truthfulness in the relationship of doctor – patient; fidelity to the patient and his or her good; solicitude to the patient’s vulnerability, stemming from both his or her illness and relative ignorance;
  - And a fidelity and witness to the profession itself, particularly when that profession adopts an alternative model of service.

# BUT...,

Despite the commitments so described, we are in an unjust situation

- estimates of many millions of uninsured
- possibly “incoherent” public understanding of what medical care is, e.g.:
  - competing claims about minimum standards of health
    - reproductive health?
    - spiritual health?
    - sexual health?
  - competing claims about the objects of health
    - to whom do we have these obligations?
    - paying customers?
    - citizens v. immigrants?
    - the sickest?





## “BASIC” HEALTH CARE?

Nearly all of the aforementioned assumes we have some definition of “health” and “basic” healthcare

- but that assumption does not assist reflection
  - what is health?
  - what is “basic” healthcare?



# HEALTH, TOWARDS A DEFINITION

## Health

- absence of illness
- “integration” definition
  - bio-psycho-social-spiritual integration of the person
- “absence of illness”
  - negative
  - necessary part of definition, but not enough
  - provides tasks for medicine: healing and prevention of illness/injury
- “integration” definition
  - positive
  - goal oriented: integrated towards the fulfillment the person finds only in communion with God
  - shows limitations of medicine: medicine has a place, but not the only (not the primary?) place in pursuit/care of health.

# HEALTH, TOWARDS A DEFINITION

Health would seem, then, to involve both the positive and negative aspects, but with a priority towards the positive.

- Put differently, one might be quite “healthy” if only positively so, even while overcome by illness or injury.
- Conversely, one might be quite unhealthy, though not negatively so at all.
- Derives from a prioritization of the ends of the person as understood by Catholic teaching: the subordination of man’s temporal end to his spiritual.
  - Found expressed in Catholic social doctrine: concern for anomie, anxiety, alienation: profound sense of meaninglessness contributes to personal and societal illness
    - *Caritas in veritate* and *Centesimus Annus*
  - Yet also seems confirmed by experience
    - Walter White?



# COMPASSION AND CHRISTIANITY

The model for all this is Christ, not “physician” in our professional sense, but

- *"They that are whole have no need of a physician; but they that are sick. I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance"* (Luke 5:31, 32).

And...

- *"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should turn again, and I should heal them"* (Matthew 13:15).



# JESUS CHRIST AS *CHRISTUS MEDICUS*

Christ referred to himself as a physician

- He becomes the paradigmatic physician
  - healing “medical conditions” incapable of being cured
  - healing, as suggested in prior to passages, “spiritual” conditions unsusceptible to medicine, then or now
- His response to the sick is whole: he comes to physical and spiritual ailments
  - He becomes our paradigm, whether we are “physicians” in professional sense, or merely followers of Christ, called to compassion



# EASING THE BURDEN

Contemporary medicine operates under enormous pressures deriving from

- its fantastic successes
- its authoritativeness
- societal envy
- its increasing scope

These reflections should ease the burden

- whatever right people have to health and healthcare is a burden shared by all, and not merely or primarily those in the medical professions



# WHAT IS BASIC HEALTH CARE

- What is **Basic** in Health Care
- What is **Health** - Definitions, Determinants & CST
- What is basic to **Care** in Health Care

*Karen Wright, MS, DC*



# WHAT IS “BASIC” IN BASIC HEALTH CARE

## What is Basic to the Human Person

- The Catholic view of the Human Person
  - Bio-psycho-social-spiritual model

## 3 Primary CST Principles

- DIGNITY - Life - The Prime Principle
- SOLIARITY – Relationships – Interdependence
- SUBSIDIARITY - Responsibility - Autonomy – Participation

## Rights - (Natural & Civil) - to life, work, family, freedom

- Justice – to give what is already theirs (CV6)
- Charity – to offer what is mine to other (CV & DCE)





# TOWARDS A DEFINITION WHAT IS 'HEALTH'

## WHO Definition

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization



# DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

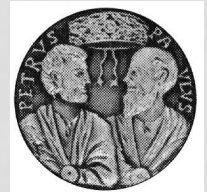
WHO Determinants of Health include:

- the social and economic environment
- the physical environment
- the person's individual characteristics and behaviors
  - i.e. income and social status, education, physical environment, social support networks, genetics, healthcare services, gender



## DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & CST

- Health can not be achieved in isolation, one needs a family, community, social structures, and natural environments to be conducive to positively affect health
- Catholic Social Teaching's principles applied to the social, political, and economic systems affect the determinants of health - integral human development
- thereby affecting an individual's ability for a lifestyle that promotes healthy living and the societal conditions that promotes emotional well-being thereby health.



# TOWARDS A CATHOLIC VIEW OF HEALTH

Seeking a comprehensive definition of health based upon bio-psycho-social-spiritual model of the human person from the Catholic view



## A CATHOLIC VIEW OF HEALTH

"Health is a dynamic tension towards physical, mental, social, and spiritual harmony, and not only the absence of illness, which gives man the ability to fulfill the mission which has been entrusted to him, according to the state of life in which he finds himself."

Blessed Pope John Paul II



# WHAT IS BASIC TO 'CARE'

## The Basics of Patient-Centered Care

- How it is Delivered versus What is Delivered
  - What is determined by those basic needs for life to flourish, by using prudential judgment through justice and truth
  - How from a Catholic view point takes steps beyond professional ethics into charity – *Deus Caritas Est*



## WHAT IS BASIC TO 'CARE'

- Models of Provider/Patient Relationships
  - Covenantal versus Contract
  - Christ-Centered Patient Care
- Praxis of Practice
  - The Spirituality of the HCP
    - Intentional response to participate in the sufferings of others, standing equal and humble before
  - Christ as the unifying element
    - Solidarity lived out in action – our call to holiness



# REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

- What is **Basic** to the Human Person as Patient in the healthcare setting
- What is **Health** from a Catholic perspective
- What is basic to **Care** in the healthcare encounter





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Break

## **INTERACTIVE SESSION**

Reflection & Discussion

Report Back / Q&A



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# WHAT IS BASIC HEALTH CARE & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

**Karen Shields Wright, MS,DC**  
Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice  
CAPP-USA

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Professor of Moral Theology



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