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UD to Host Conference on Reproductive Technologies and Catholic Tradition

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DAYTON, Ohio, October 20, 1987--The University of Dayton will bring together nationally known ethicists, geneticists, and theologians for a conference and dialogue on "Reproductive Technologies and Catholic Tradition" October 29-31.

Speakers from a wide spectrum of disciplines will participate in the conference which begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre.

The Reverend Richard A. McCormick, S.J., Ph.D., the John O'Brien Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, will give the opening presentation, "The Teaching Authority of the Vatican 'Instruction' on Reproductive Technologies."

A Vatican instruction on procreation released last March rejected as morally illicit in-vitro fertilization, surrogate motherhood, and non-therapeutic experimentation on human embryos.

"To my knowledge, this is the first national public conference on the Vatican instruction," said Lawrence Ulrich, Ph.D., professor and chair of the UD Department of Philosophy. Ulrich, a member of the conference faculty, noted, "People will have the opportunity to discuss concerns they have about the Vatican document with the experts."

Speakers and topics scheduled for Friday are:
o Robert C. Winslow, M.D., founding clinical director of the In-Vitro Fertilization Clinic, Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton -- "Reproductive Technologies: The State of the Art."

o The Reverend Robert J. Baumiller, S.J., Ph.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of genetics at Georgetown Medical School -- "Experimentation on the Early Embryo: What Can Be Done? What Should Be Done?"

o R. Alta Charo, J.D., legal analyst, Biological Applications Program, Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress -- "Developing State and Federal Policies with Regard to Reproductive Technologies."

o Mary Ann Lamanna, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Nebraska at Omaha -- "On the Baby Assembly Line: Reproductive Technology and the Family."

o Sidney Callahan, Ph.D., professor of psychology and religious writer, Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. -- "Preserving the Dignity of the Person in the Use of Reproductive Technologies."

o Bishop William Hughes, Diocese of Covington, Ky. -- "A Bishop's Perspective on Reproductive Technology and the Vatican 'Instruction.'"

Saturday's presenters will include:

o David Thomasma, Ph.D., professor and director of medical ethics, Loyola Medical School, Chicago -- "Technology's Influence on Human Life: Is the Vatican's View Realistic?"

o David Ozar, Ph.D., associate professor and director of graduate studies in health care ethics, Department of Philosophy, Loyola
University, Chicago -- "Moral Obligations Toward the Early Embryo."

The Reverend John Gallagher, C.S.B., Ph.D., professor of Christian ethics, St. Thomas College, Houston -- "A Theological Perspective on Natural Law Ethics as Applied to Reproductive Technology."

A round table discussion for conference registrants, presenters, and faculty will conclude the three-day event which will adjourn at 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 31.

The conference and dialogue is co-sponsored by Good Samaritan Hospital and Health Center, Dayton; Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton; Advanced Treatment and Bioethics Institute, Mt. Carmel Health, Columbus; St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Dayton; and St. John's Medical Center, Anderson, Indiana.

There is a registration fee for the conference. For more information, call Dr. Lawrence Ulrich, UD Department of Philosophy at (513)229-2933.

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