

PROCEEDING BOOK



THE 15th AFCMA CONGRESS 2012

" Challenges of Catholic Doctors in the Changing World "

SANUR PARADISE PLAZA HOTEL, BALI - INDONESIA

18 - 21 OCTOBER 2012



HOST



CO-HOST

**CHALLENGES
OF CATHOLIC DOCTORS
IN
THE CHANGING WORLD**

PROCEEDING

OF

The 15th AFCMA CONGRESS

SANUR PARADISE HOTEL

BALI, OCTOBER 18 - 21, 2012

CONTENT

1. Congress Agenda	3
2. Keynote Lecture	12
“The Mission of the Catholic Physician today”	12
By H.E. Msgr Jean Marie Mupendawatu	
(Secretary, Pontifical Council for Healthcare Workers)	
3. Alimurung Lecture	27
State-of-the-art of the current medical knowledge. Value and its consequences	
By DR Dr FM Judajana SpPK (K)	
4. Paper of Main Session	38
<i>Session 1 : Challenges of Catholic Doctors in Upholding Biomedical Ethics</i>	38
Challenges of Catholic Doctors : From Ethics to Bioethics	
By RD. Dr. Agustinus Ryadi	
<i>Session 2 : Challenges of Catholic Doctors at the beginning of human life (Panel Discussion)</i>	49
<i>Session 3: Challenges of Catholic Doctors at the end of human life (Panel Discussion)</i>	77
<i>Session 4 : Challenges of Catholic Doctors in Promoting Natural Fertility Awareness (Panel Discussion)</i>	101
<i>Session 5 : Controversy in the use of condom in HIV prevention (Panel Discussion)</i>	121
5. Free paper	127
6. Congress Committee	217

THE CHALLENGES OF CATHOLIC DOCTORS: RESPONSES TO PATIENTS

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of my paper are to have better understanding about the specific challenges of Catholic doctors and about their problems in considering every medical decision from the perspectives of Ethics and Bioethics, offering some suggestions how to face them.

It is a library research, a critical analysis of relevant sources on Ethics and Bioethics, to collect information related to the challenges and how to face them.

The analysis revealed that Catholic doctors face three kinds of challenges related to Ethics. The first one is the Department's ambiguity towards the subjects of Medical Ethics since humanistic subjects do not have a strong position in the academic world. The second one is that Catholic doctors cannot develop themselves to become moral subjects since they are always struggling with moral questions: Which regulation or norm or principle do they have to comply with? The third one is that Ethics is facing the imbalanced development that modern Ethics is merely based on principles and obligations.

In relation to Bio-Ethics, the doctors also face three kinds of challenges. Firstly, Bioethics seems problematic to consider ethics as an applied science. Secondly, doctors are very much affected by empirical attitude. Thirdly, they have to face the death culture. It requires clear thinking that the doctors have to make time to reflect on Ethics and Bio-Ethics in order that they can rearrange the strategy that has been carried out, will be or are necessary to be done. In addition, there should be pluralistic dialogs among Ethics committees to give profound ethical evaluation on basic matters.



In conclusion, despite all the distractions, Catholic doctors should make time for reflection to make it a habit in considering their medical practices in view of Ethics and Bioethics that they may develop a rational morality and deepen their moral conscience.

Challenges of Catholic Doctors: From Ethics to Bioethics

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“The important thing is when the storm comes, never scroll on the sail. *Take it as a challenge!* Who knows it will be a blessing for you.” (Kartajaya, Hermawan, *Grow with Character: The Story*, PT Gramedia, Jakarta, 2010, p.243)

I write this paper for 15th AFCMA (Asian Federation of Catholic Medical Association) Congress 2012 on October 18 – 21, 2012 in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. I was asked to present a speaker, on Friday, October 19, 2012. The theme of the 15th AFCMA Congress 2012 is Challenges of Catholic Doctors in the Changing World.

My question is “What is the meaning of challenge?” Challenge is something that needs great mental of physical effort in order to be successful and which therefore tests a person’s ability. I think, the challenge of Catholic doctors is the lack of leisure. If Catholic doctors have some leisure, they will be able to understand better about ethics and bioethics. For this reason, I will discuss the lack of free time and how to solve it. Further, I will clarify the specific challenge of Catholic doctors in ethics and bioethics.

01. The Lack of Leisure

Catholic doctors nowadays are people with no more leisure²¹. All of their time is stuffed with works, pursuing needs, ambitions, and dreams. Their hectic

²¹ Leisure derived from Greek word *schole*