

St Mary Student Parish

The Consistent Ethic of Life: “Health Care Reform and the Poor”

Tim Florence, MD

Tues, November 17, 2009 7 – 8:30 pm

Donnelly Hall

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin introduced the concept of a “consistent ethic of life’ that included Health Care Reform. " I believe that at the heart of so many of our problems -- in Chicago and Washington, Bosnia and Rwanda – there is a fundamental lack of respect for human life and human dignity."

Recommended reading: “A Consistent Ethic of Life and Health Care Reform” Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. May 26, 1994.

“Now is the time for real health care reform. It is a matter of fundamental justice. For so many it is literally a matter of life and death, of lives cut short and dignity denied. We urge our national leaders to look beyond special interest claims and partisan differences to unite our nation in a new commitment to meet the health care needs of our people, especially the poor and the vulnerable. This is a major political task, a significant policy challenge and a moral imperative.”

“Common Grounds Conversation”

Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:30 pm

Sava’s Café, 216 S. State Street

Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. A measure of the moral character of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. Does this pertain to the health care debate, if so how?
2. Why is health care reform legislation so difficult to get passed into law?
3. No matter what actions are taken in Washington DC, what are actions you can take to support Catholic Social Teaching as it relates to Health Care for the Poor?

Resources:

1. [“A Consistent Ethic of Life and Health Care Reform”](#) Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. May 26, 1994
2. Websites:
 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Health Care Reform: http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/official_documents.shtml#teachings
www.nplc.org
 - Michigan Catholic Conference <http://michcc.org/>
 - Affordable Health Care for America Act -- H.R. 3962
http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111_ahcaa.pdf