



**Diocesan Health Facilities, Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River**  
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For Immediate Release  
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FALL RIVER, MA: Five diocesan health care professionals recently completed a yearlong course administered by the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) in Philadelphia, PA and became certified under the National Catholic Health Care Ethics Program.

Mary-Ellen Murphy, Madonna Manor; Cindy Pelczarski, Marian Manor; Sr. Dorothy Scesny, Sacred Heart Home; Susan Caldwell, Diocesan Health Facilities Office; and Michael Medeiros, Our Lady's Haven were sponsored by Monsignor Edmund J. Fitzgerald, executive director of the Diocesan Health Facilities, the system of long-term care facilities sponsored by the Fall River diocese.

They join 10 other diocesan health care professionals in becoming certified by the National Catholic Health Care Ethics Program. The National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics provides a year-long program that deals with the major bioethical issues that arise in modern medical and research environments. Father Tad Pacholczyk is director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) in Philadelphia and a priest of the Fall River diocese.

“I think that the certification program is very important because there are so many ethical health questions we deal with in our facilities,” Monsignor Fitzgerald said. “Being in the long-term care industry, we need to have an understanding of the ethical and religious directives (ERDs) and of Catholic principles. We think it is a very important investment.”

The participants went through an intensive, yearlong course to achieve their certification that included weekly assignments, online interactions, and teleconferences and a final conference in Philadelphia where each person participated in a one-on-one interview, a mock ethics committee, and the presentation of a thesis paper on a specific topic of their choosing.

There are currently three Diocesan Health Facilities staff members enrolled in the bioethics certification program. They are Melandie Karol, RN, Madonna Manor; Lisa Cadime, RN, Sacred Heart Home; and Laura Mitchell, Director of Finance, Diocesan Health Facilities Office.