

Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians' Societies

Fédération canadienne des sociétés de médecins catholiques

National Conference 2026

Restoring Medicine Through the Sacred Heart

May 28–31, 2026

Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier — North Vancouver, BC
Christ the Redeemer Parish — West Vancouver, BC



Cor Iesu, fons vitae et sanctitatis

Program & Speakers

About the Conference

Over the past decade, medical practice in Canada has undergone significant ethical and conceptual shifts. Advances in technology, changing societal expectations, and evolving legal frameworks have expanded what medicine is *capable* of doing — while simultaneously raising questions about what medicine *ought* to do. Practices once considered incompatible with the traditional goals of medicine are increasingly framed as standard clinical options. These developments invite renewed reflection on a foundational question: *what is the proper end of medicine, and how should physicians understand their role in promoting human flourishing?*

This conference examines the purpose of medicine through an integrated clinical, ethical, and anthropological lens, drawing on both contemporary medical experience and the Catholic intellectual tradition. Proceeding from the conviction that sound clinical practice rests on a coherent understanding of the human person, we will explore how concepts such as vulnerability, suffering, conscience, and professional responsibility shape authentic healing.

Particular attention will be given to the physician as a *wounded healer*: a clinician who, while sharing in human limitation and moral tension, is entrusted with the care of others at moments of profound vulnerability. The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be presented not devotionally but anthropologically and clinically — as a paradigm of compassionate presence, moral clarity, and fidelity to the good of the patient.

The conference seeks to support physicians in integrating scientific excellence, ethical discernment, and professional integrity, enabling them to practice medicine in a way that affirms the dignity of every patient while remaining faithful to conscience and the moral tradition of the Church.

Travel & Logistics

Getting here. The Pinnacle Hotel is easily reached from Vancouver International Airport (YVR) via the Canada Line SkyTrain to Waterfront Station, followed by the SeaBus to Lonsdale Quay. The hotel is a short walk from the SeaBus terminal.

Saturday venue. All Saturday sessions are hosted at Christ the Redeemer Parish in West Vancouver. Shuttles depart the Pinnacle Hotel between 7:30 and 8:00 AM.

Registration & Information

Conference link at canadiancatholicphysicians.com/conferences.

Continuing medical education. The 2026 Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians and Societies Conference will feature a variety of speakers presenting on topics relevant to the practice of medicine. These interactive presentations and discussions will encompass many of the role descriptions included in the CFPC's CanMEDS-Family Medicine framework (2017) and the RCPSC's CanMEDS framework (2025). These elements include:

- Medical Expert
- Communicator
- Health Advocate
- Professional
- Leader

Attendance and participation in this conference would be counted as Continuing Medical Education under the following pathways:

CFPC: Mainpro+ Non-Certified Activities

RCPSC: Section 1 Unaccredited Conferences

The 2026 CFCPS Conference is free of promotional content or commercial influence and is intended for ongoing professional development.

Inquiries. Contact admin@canadiancatholicphysicians.ca.

CFPCS membership. Information on joining the Federation and its member guilds is available at canadiancatholicphysicians.com/plans-pricing.

Schedule

Thursday, May 28 *Arrivals*

Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier, North Vancouver

Delegates arrive and check in to the Pinnacle Hotel. No formal sessions are scheduled.

Friday, May 29 *Welcome & Opening Sessions*

Christ the Redeemer Parish (morning options) • Pinnacle Hotel (afternoon & evening)

6:15 – 7:45 AM	Men’s Prayer Group (optional) Christ the Redeemer Parish
8:15 AM	Mass Christ the Redeemer Parish
After Service	Brothers Creek Trail hike (optional) Departs from Christ the Redeemer • 2.5 hours • moderate vigour
Midday	<i>Lunch on your own</i>
1:00 PM	CFCPS Annual General Meeting Executive members required; all members welcome
3:00 PM	Registration, coffee & refreshments
4:00 PM	Welcome
4:05 – 5:00 PM	Fr. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, OP <i>Human Genome Editing with CRISPR: Ethical Considerations from a Catholic Perspective</i>
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Deacon Dr. Tim Kostamo <i>Channelling Grace in the Trenches of Healthcare</i>
6:00 PM	Dinner — Hotel Ballroom President’s Address: Dr. Lucas Vivas <i>The Mission of Catholic Doctors’ Guilds in a Post-Christian World</i>
7:30 PM	Social Time

Saturday, May 30 *Conference Day*

Christ the Redeemer Parish, West Vancouver

7:30 – 8:00 AM	Shuttles depart hotel for Christ the Redeemer
8:00 – 8:45 AM	Catered breakfast
8:45 – 9:30 AM	Fr. Jaime Hernandez Ojeda <i>Physicians in the Image of Christ the Healer: The Healing Mission of Christ and the Vocation of the Physician</i>
9:30 – 10:15 AM	Dr. Judith Kwok <i>Healing the Wounded Healer in a Broken System</i>
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Coffee break
10:30 – 11:15 AM	Dr. Franco Serafini <i>Eucharistic Miracles: Where Science and Faith Meet</i>
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Fr. Daniel Geddes, FSSP <i>Authentic Liturgical Renewal</i>
12:00 – 12:45 PM	Catered lunch
12:45 – 1:15 PM	Dr. Paul & Theresa Yong <i>Adoption: Is It Still an Option?</i>
1:15 – 1:45 PM	Dr. Jonathan Yang <i>Everything a (Catholic) Physician Should Know About Natural Family Planning</i>
2:00 PM – 2:20 PM	Benediction and Adoration Optional continued Adoration or Rosary Walk — Seawall, West Vancouver
4:30 PM	Akathist Prayer <i>Liturgy of prayer and intercession in the Byzantine Rite, calling upon physician saints and other holy healers</i>
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Confessions available Christ the Redeemer Parish
5:30 PM	White Mass for Healthcare Workers Christ the Redeemer Parish • Celebrant: Bishop Gregory Bittman
6:30 PM	Garden Party & BBQ Hosted at Deacon Tim’s residence • 741 Southborough Drive Shuttles available from CTR, or a 20-minute walk

Sunday, May 31 *Closing Sessions*

Pinnacle Hotel at the Pier, North Vancouver

8:00 – 8:40 AM	Buffet breakfast — Pinnacle Hotel
8:40 – 9:20 AM	Dr. Quentin Genuis <i>Addiction, Personhood, and the Life of the Church</i>
9:20 – 10:15 AM	Dr. Romayne Gallagher <i>The State of Contemporary Palliative and End-of-Life Care in Canada</i>
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Coffee break
10:30 – 11:15 AM	Gwendoline Allison <i>Updates on the BC Supreme Court trial regarding St. Paul’s Hospital’s refusal to provide “medical assistance in dying” (MAID)</i>
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Angelina Ireland <i>The Road to Sanctuary</i>
12:00 PM	Closing remarks & departure

Speakers

Listed alphabetically by surname.

Gwendoline Allison — *Lawyer*

“Updates on the BC Supreme Court trial regarding St. Paul’s Hospital’s refusal to provide MAID”

Sunday, May 31 • 10:30–11:15 AM

Gwendoline has a heart for victims of human trafficking and, as a Catholic lawyer and principal of her own law firm, has engaged the issue consistently, including as a member of the Archdiocesan Anti-Human Trafficking Committee since 2015. With other lay and religious collaborators, she continues to contribute to articles and workshops to raise awareness of the scourge of human trafficking and prostitution. She has also contributed her expertise and experience to the Archdiocesan Review Board since 2020.

Her colleagues selected her as the keynote speaker at the 2015 Red Mass Dinner sponsored by the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Guild in Vancouver, and she currently serves as a member of the Red Mass organizing committee. She has argued in favour of religious freedom for Christian institutions before the Supreme Court of Canada.



Fr. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, OP — *Professor of Biology and Theology, University of Santo Tomas, Manila*

“Human Genome Editing with CRISPR: Ethical Considerations from a Catholic Perspective”

Friday, May 29 • 4:05–5:00 PM

Fr. Austriaco completed his Ph.D. in Biology at M.I.T. and a Pontifical Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.Th.D.) at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. He is Professor of Biology and Theology — formerly at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island, and now at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. He is the founding director of ThomisticEvolution.org and a bioethics consultant for the Catholic bishops’ conferences of the United States and the Philippines.

He has published more than fifty papers in peer-reviewed journals in biology, philosophy, and theology. His book *Biomedicine and Beatitude: An Introduction to Catholic Bioethics* was recognized as a 2012 Choice Outstanding Academic Title by the Association of College and Research Libraries.



Dr. Romaine Gallagher — *Palliative care physician (retired); board member, Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians*

“The State of Contemporary Palliative and End-of-Life Care in Canada”

Sunday, May 31 • 9:20–10:15 AM

Dr. Gallagher retired from clinical practice in 2019 after 34 years across multiple healthcare sectors. After 12 years in family medicine with palliative care consults, she transitioned to full-time palliative care across hospitals, long-term care, and the community. At Providence Health Care she directed both the Hospice Palliative Care program and the Long-Term Care Programs, and she brings more than 25 years of experience as a consultant in palliative care. Through her work with Doctors of BC, she established the BC Palliative Care Benefits Program.

She was an expert witness for the Government of Canada against legalizing MAiD in 2015 and testified before the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying in 2021 and 2022 on the state of palliative care in Canada in the era of legalized MAiD. She is a board member of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians and of Providence Living.



Fr. Daniel Geddes, FSSP — *Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Vancouver; Councillor, FSSP North American Province*

“On Authentic Liturgical Renewal”

Saturday, May 30 • 11:15 AM–12:00 PM

Fr. Geddes is a native of Kincardine, Ontario. After studying Electronic Technology in college, he entered Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Nebraska in 2000 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 12, 2007. After a year as Parochial Vicar in Chesapeake, Virginia, he was assigned to Vancouver, where he became Pastor of Holy Family Parish in 2013.

He was elected in 2018 by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter as Assistant to the Superior General, and in 2021 as a Councillor to the Provincial Superior of the FSSP’s North American Province.



Dr. Quentin Genuis — *Emergency physician and ethicist, St. Paul’s Hospital, Vancouver*

“Addiction, Personhood, and the Life of the Church”

Sunday, May 31 • 8:40–9:20 AM

Dr. Genuis is an emergency physician and ethicist at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver and serves as the physician ethicist for Providence Health Care. He is a Sessional Faculty member and the Professional in Residence at Regent College in Vancouver, where he teaches on topics including medical ethics and addiction.



Angelina Ireland — *Executive Director, Delta Hospice Society*

“The Road to Sanctuary”

Sunday, May 31 • 11:15 AM–12:00 PM

Angelina was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and became a client of the Delta Hospice Society. When she recovered, she joined the Board of Directors, was elected President in 2019 for five years, and now serves as Executive Director. She has spent many years defending Delta Hospice from various levels of government and euthanasia activists, and working to protect palliative care in Canada more broadly.

The Delta Hospice Society has been a palliative-care organization since 1991, dedicated to the historically accurate medical discipline that provides comfort and impeccable symptom management while doing nothing to hasten death. When DHS refused to participate in MAiD in their hospice, they were evicted from the Hospice and Care Centre they had built and operated for ten years. Angelina is now working with her team to open another hospice.



Deacon Dr. Tim Kostamo — *Surgeon and deacon; Vancouver*

“Channelling Grace in the Trenches of Healthcare”

Friday, May 29 • 5:00–6:00 PM

Deacon Dr. Tim Kostamo is a father of four daughters, husband, surgeon, and deacon. He grew up a Pentecostal missionary kid with parents serving in Eastern Europe, and came to the Catholic Church by way of his Polish wife and a long discernment.

His session reflects on the intersection of twenty years of surgical service — in Canada and abroad — with two years of ordained life in ministry to the Church.

Dr. Judith Kwok — *Palliative care and psychotherapy; Greater Toronto Area*

“Healing the Wounded Healer in a Broken System”

Saturday, May 30 • 9:30–10:15 AM

Dr. Kwok practices palliative care, psychotherapy, and complex continuing care across a number of settings in the Greater Toronto Area. During her first year of medical school, she converted to Catholicism. A good friend inspired her to a deeper devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and, with time, to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart. She is passionate about integrating faith and medicine, and is particularly interested in the role of the sacred liturgy in healing.



Fr. Jaime Hernandez Ojeda — *Doctoral candidate in Moral Theology, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross; visiting scholar, Georgetown*

“Physicians in the Image of Christ the Healer: The Healing Mission of Christ and the Vocation of the Physician”

Saturday, May 30 • 8:45–9:30 AM

Fr. Hernandez Ojeda is a visiting scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is a doctoral candidate in Moral Theology at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, where he also earned his STB and STL.

Before pursuing theological studies, he obtained an MD and a PhD in Medicine from the University of Barcelona and completed fellowship training in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. His research focuses on Catholic bioethics, medical ethics, and the relationship between medicine, virtue, and conscience. He is a Roman Catholic priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei serving in the United States.



Dr. Franco Serafini — *Cardiologist; author; Rome*

“Eucharistic Miracles: Where Science and Faith Meet”

Saturday, May 30 • 10:30–11:15 AM

Dr. Serafini is an Italian cardiologist who has spent years investigating the medical-scientific aspect of Eucharistic miracles. He is the author of *A Cardiologist Examines Jesus: The Stunning Science Behind Eucharistic Miracles* (Sophia Institute Press, 2021). He teaches at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Athenaeum in Rome and was awarded the Paul VI International Peace Prize in 2023.



Dr. Lucas Vivas — *President, Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Societies*

“The Mission of Catholic Doctors’ Guilds in a Post-Christian World”

Friday, May 29 • 6:00 PM (President’s Address at dinner)

Dr. Vivas is the current President of the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Societies. He practices hospital-based Internal Medicine in the Greater Toronto Area, with a clinical interest in diabetes and metabolic medicine. He completed a Master’s degree in Bioethics at the University of Toronto and has authored articles on bioethics in both peer-reviewed journals and the popular press.

He lives in Mississauga, Ontario, with his wife and children. He enjoys gardening, running, and cooking elaborate, themed meals.



Dr. Jonathan Yang — *Family physician; Marquette Method NFP; Vancouver*

“Everything a (Catholic) Physician Should Know About Natural Family Planning”

Saturday, May 30 • 1:15–1:45 PM

Dr. Yang is a family physician in Vancouver with a special interest in fertility and menstrual cycle abnormalities. He is trained in the Marquette Method of Natural Family Planning and has been working with couples dealing with infertility since 2021. He also works as a hospitalist and urgent care physician.



Dr. Paul Yong & Theresa Yong — *Adoptive parents; Vancouver*

“Adoption: Is It Still an Option?”

Saturday, May 30 • 12:45–1:15 PM

Paul and Theresa Yong live in Vancouver and are adoptive parents. They will discuss the adoption process, attachment and parenting, and how to talk about adoption with children. Dr. Yong is a Canada Research Chair in Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain.

Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Consécration personnelle au Sacré-Cœur de Jésus

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I consecrate and offer to You my whole self and my life: my actions, trials, and sufferings, so that from this day forward my entire being may be devoted only to loving, honoring, and glorifying You. This is my firm and irrevocable will: to belong entirely to You, to do everything for love of You, and with all my heart to renounce whatever may displease You.

I take You, O Sacred Heart, as the sole object of my love, the protector of my life, the pledge of my salvation, the remedy for my weakness and inconsistency, the reparation for all the failings of my life, and my sure refuge at the hour of my death.

Be, O most merciful Heart, my justification before God Your Father, and shield me from the judgment I have justly deserved. I have every reason to fear my own weakness and sinfulness; yet, placing all my confidence in You, O Heart of Love, I hope for everything from Your infinite goodness.

Destroy in me whatever may displease You or resist You. Imprint Your pure love so deeply upon my heart that I may never forget You, nor ever be separated from You.

Through Your infinite goodness, I beg You: grant that my name may be engraved upon Your Heart. In this I place all my happiness and all my glory: to live and die as one of Your devoted servants.

Je me donne et consacre au Sacré Cœur de Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ, ma personne et ma vie, mes actions, peines et souffrances, pour ne plus vouloir me servir d'aucune partie de mon être que pour l'honorer, aimer et glorifier.

C'est ici ma volonté irrévocable que d'être tout(e) à Lui et de faire tout pour son amour, en renonçant de tout mon cœur à tout ce qui pourrait Lui déplaire.

Je te prends donc, ô Sacré Cœur, pour l'unique objet de mon amour, le protecteur de ma vie, l'assurance de mon salut, le remède de ma fragilité et de mon inconstance, le réparateur de tous les défauts de ma vie et mon asile assuré à l'heure de ma mort.

Ô Cœur d'amour, je mets toute ma confiance en toi, car je crains tout de ma malice et de ma faiblesse, mais j'espère tout de ta bonté.

Consomme donc en moi tout ce qui peut te déplaire ou résister ! Que ton pur amour t'imprime si profondément dans mon cœur que jamais je ne puisse t'oublier, ni être séparé(e) de toi.

Et je te conjure, par toutes tes bontés, que mon nom soit écrit en toi, puisque je veux que tout mon bonheur et toute ma gloire consistent à vivre et mourir à ton seul service.

Amen.

— St. Margaret Mary Alacoque