

Book Review for “Catholics Bioethics for a New Millennium” by Antony Fisher, OP

Review by Fr David Garcia, OP

Is there a difference between letting a patient die with dignity and withholding medical treatment so that patients are spared a long, painful process of dying? Should Catholic hospitals be different from their secular counterparts? How different? Is there a way out of the abortion debate? Can Catholics keep themselves absolutely free from any cooperation with the many morally illicit practices the secular world is practising today? Is it possible for a Catholic politician to keep faithful to Catholic values?

Perhaps the questions that beg most earnestly for an urgent and intelligent answer are the ethical dilemmas of our time. Among these, one of the greatest concerns is the ethical boundaries of the use of technology to improve (or destroy) our lives and our societies. Bishop Anthony Fisher succeeds in addressing all these questions and more in his latest book, *Catholic Bioethics for a New Millennium*.

Anthony Fisher is highly qualified for the task. He is a much sought-after speaker and lecturer on moral issues with numerous publications to his credit. He serves as a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, and is well acquainted with both the Catholic and the secular perspectives on bioethical matters.

In line with his personal style, the book is both academically rigorous and an engaging dialogue. It tackles all sides of the debate before giving an intelligent answer to the issues at hand. Perhaps one of its most appreciated contributions is its unashamedly Catholic approach. The Church not only has an intelligent view on ethical matters, but has received divine wisdom as a gift that she cannot but proclaim to all people of good will, especially when it concerns the safeguarding of human dignity and those that are most vulnerable in our society.

Catholic Bioethics for a New Millennium is a must read for those who want to be updated on the latest contributions to bioethical debates as well as for the educated Catholic who wants to know how to engage the world in positive and intelligent dialogue.

Note: Bishop Fisher will be delivering the Fr Edmund Dunne Memorial Lecture, speaking on “Principlism” at the Catholic Medical Guild’s 60th Anniversary Celebration Dinner, on Sun, 21 Oct, 7pm, at Hotel Grand Pacific. The book “*Catholic Bioethics for a New Millennium*” will be on sale at the dinner.