



## **A Brief History of the Saint John Paul II Bioethics Center and the Lecture Series in Bioethics**

The Saint John Paul II Lecture Series in Bioethics was established in 1981 as an integral part of what was then called the Pope John Paul II Bioethics Center at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut.

The lecture series drew upon the finest Catholic scholars to address developing issues in the emerging field of bioethics. Outstanding addresses by notable authorities including Germaine Grisez, William May, Fr. Ronald Lawler, Donald DeMarco, Ralph McInerny, Msgr. David Q. Liptak and Raymond Dennehy have presented, defended, advanced and anticipated developments in Catholic teaching that touch upon the interface of morality, technology, culture and corporeal life.

The original lectures in the series were delivered in the 1980s. Subsequent developments in Catholic teaching and the magnificent papal corpus of John Paul the Great brought several of the topics addressed to definitive resolution, such as the objective immorality of *in vitro* fertilization of a human being, a topic thoroughly and soundly addressed in the series. The lectures offer clear analysis as well as fresh and challenging insights to critical questions.

In 2010 the lecture series was revitalized with an address by Francis Cardinal Arinze and has been followed by lectures from catholic experts in moral theology, bioethics, law, pastoral ministry, and biology including notable appearances by the National Catholic Bioethics Center's John Haas and Rev. Nicanor Austriaco.

In 2014 the center was renamed as the Saint John Paul II Bioethics Center in recognition of the late pope's canonization on April 27, 2014.

In 2016 the Bioethics Center annual lecture established an annual *Redemptor Hominis Award*, recognizing outstanding contributions to the field of bioethics. The award takes its name from the inaugural encyclical letter of Saint John Paul II, *Redemptor Hominis*, in which he provide the inspiration for the creation of the Bioethics Center:

*The development of technology and the development of contemporary civilization, which is marked by the ascendancy of technology, demand a proportional development of morals and ethics. (n. 15)*