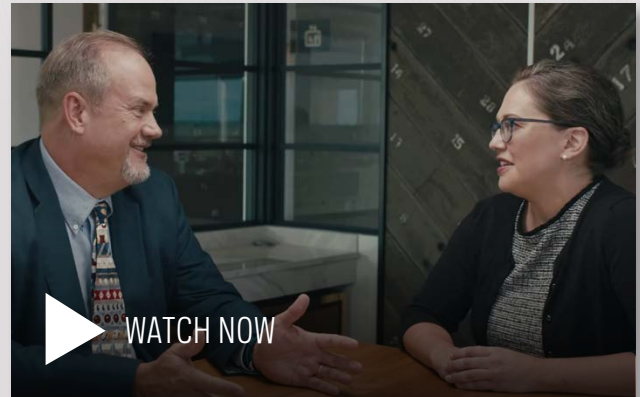


Healing Polarization through Dialogue in the Parish

JESSICA KEATING, M.DIV. & CHRISTOPHER BAGLOW, PH.D.

“An illusion can never be destroyed directly, and only by indirect means can it be radically removed...” This quote from Søren Kierkegaard has endless applications to pastoral ministry where a chief goal is the transformation of the faithful

through the renewal of their minds and hearts (Rom 12:2). This is nowhere more true than in regard to misconceptions of faith, ethics, and science. In this dialogue, Jessica Keating and Dr. Christopher Baglow discuss the “secret art” of helping others overcome conflicts created by misunderstandings of Church teaching, bioethics, and science and religion.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can a pastor both acknowledge the truths that lie behind these tensions and also draw those who hold them into a wider vision of Church teaching?
2. Within the lectionary, where might there be opportunities to preach about tensions in faith and science?
3. Within the lectionary, where might there be opportunities to preach about tensions in bioethics?



SPIRITUAL CONTEMPLATION

Mark 8:22-26

"When they arrived at Bethsaida, they brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. Putting spittle on his eyes he laid his hands on him and asked, 'Do you see anything?' Looking up he replied, 'I see people looking like trees and walking.' Then he laid hands on his eyes a second time and he saw clearly; his sight was restored and he could see everything distinctly."



RESOURCES

[BOOKLET] [Faithful Science: Integrating Science and Faith](#) from the McGrath Institute for Church Life

[ARTICLE] [The Eclipse of Sex by the Rise of Gender](#) by Abigail Favale, Ph.D.

[ARTICLE] [The Newest War on Women](#) by Abigail Favale, Ph.D.

[ARTICLE] [Remedies for American Catholic Polarization](#) by Robert G. Christian III



Jessica Keating, M.Div.

Jessica Keating is the Director of the Notre Dame Office of Life and Human Dignity in the McGrath Institute for Church Life. In her role, she leads the Institute's research, education, and outreach efforts on the nature and dignity of the human person and contemporary threats to the sanctity of life. Keating also collaborates with schools and dioceses to develop innovative educational content and strategies to integrate a pedagogy of life across the academic disciplines. She completed her undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Sociology from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and earned her Master of Divinity from the University of Notre Dame. In addition to her work with the Institute, Keating is pursuing her Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Notre Dame.



Christopher Baglow, Ph.D.

Dr. Christopher Baglow is the Director of the Science & Religion Initiative at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame. In his role, he creates and directs programs that assist Catholic leaders in bringing the Catholic faith and modern science into dialogue for the sake of the New Evangelization. Baglow is a graduate of Franciscan University who began a career in Catholic theological education that has spanned high school, undergraduate, graduate and seminary teaching. After completing his M.A. at the University of Dallas and his Ph.D. at Duquesne University, Baglow was Junior Professor of Theology at St. Joseph Seminary College, the Sue Ellen Canizaro Chair at Our Lady of Holy Cross College and Professor of Theology at Notre Dame Seminary. Chris published the first high school textbook on the topic of Science and Religion, Faith, Science, and Reason: Theology on the Cutting Edge (2009) and previously directed the Templeton-funded Steno Learning Program in Faith and Science for Catholic Secondary Educators (SLP), a week-long seminar experience for Catholic science and religion teachers.