



DECREE

ESTABLISHING THE SEVENTH EDITION AND SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS OF THE

Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services

AS PARTICULAR LAW IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

Catholic healthcare, which offers a model of care that prioritizes the whole person and upholds the values of faith, dignity, and service, continues to be a tangible manifestation of the Church's commitment to Christ's teachings in the world today through its hospitals, clinics, and outreach programs. It is essential that Catholic healthcare services are rooted in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, respect the dignity of the human person, and promote the common good.

The bishops of the United States have long recognized the need for guidance to Catholic healthcare organizations to assist them in remaining steadfast in their mission to offer care that is not only medically excellent but also morally and ethically aligned with Catholic values, especially with continuous advancements in public health and technology. In response to this need, in November 2025, the plenary assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the *Seventh Edition of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (ERDs).

The ERDs outline the moral principles that govern the provision of health care services in Catholic health care ministries such as hospitals, regional clinics, and long-term-care settings. Recognizing the value of the ERDs in guiding Catholic healthcare providers in aligning their practices with Church teachings, moral principles, and the sanctity of life, and

Mindful of the significant contribution Catholic healthcare services offer, as well as of my responsibility as diocesan bishop to safeguard the integrity and unity of the works of the apostolate pertaining to health care in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (cf. *1983 CIC* cann. 209, 216, 222, 381, 392, 394, 678, and 747);

I, the Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, by the grace of God and the Apostolic See, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, hereby issue this Decree (*1983 CIC* can. 29) establishing the Seventh Edition, and subsequent editions when promulgated, of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* as particular law in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

The Seventh Edition, and subsequent editions when promulgated, of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* shall become binding and effective within the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis immediately, on this 34th World Day of the Sick as designated by our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, any particular legislation, directives or instructions to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Saint Paul, Minnesota, on this 11th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord 2026, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.



Susan Mulheron
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs



Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

L.S.