



Alumni Profile - Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk '99

“On the Wings of Science and Religion”

“A priestly vocation combined with a passion for science and research” might sum up the story of Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk '99, alumnus of the diocese of Fall River, MA. Known as “Fr. Tad,” he currently serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) in Philadelphia. The Center conducts research, consultation, publishing, and education to promote human dignity in health care and the life sciences, and it derives its message directly from the teachings of the Catholic Church.

His father was a professor of astrophysics and astronomer priests from an outpost of the Vatican Observatory were frequent visitors to his home. Fr. Tad developed an early interest in the sciences and earned undergraduate degrees in biochemistry, molecular cell biology, chemistry, and philosophy from the University of Arizona. He later earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University and worked for several years as a molecular biologist at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School.



He discerned a vocation to the priesthood during a trip to Italy when he was 17 years old. After reading about the life of St. Therese of Lisieux and her tenacity in pursuing her vocation, Fr. Tad knew he was called to the priesthood, but also knew part of that calling included science. He was eventually sent to the North American College to study, where he did advanced work in dogmatic theology and in bioethics, examining the question of delayed ensoulment of the human embryo. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 26, 1999.

Today, in addition to his work at the NCBC, he writes and speaks frequently on bioethics and medical issues. He teaches at seminaries and colleges around the country and appears on major media outlets addressing issues like stem cell research and cloning.

Recently, Fr. Tad was appointed to The Human Fetal Tissue Research Ethics Advisory Board of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to advise the Health Secretary on the ethics of research proposals involving fetal tissue of aborted babies.

Reflecting on his time at the North American College, Fr. Tad told us, “I remember especially the wonderful times I had with various Italian families who I was able to befriend and spend time with. Learning Italian was so helpful to be able to do that. I also remember the wonderful NAC mid-day meals, which often precipitated a “*pisolino*” or little nap afterward!” Fr. Tad also said that the good resources available at the NAC library and other libraries in Rome were helpful in his research on the topic of the ensoulment of the human embryo.

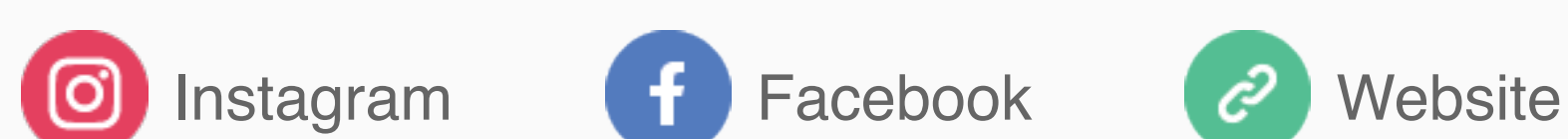
Fr. Tad clearly has a unique ministry compared to most alumni, is a loyal son of alma mater, and a great example of the faithful, holy priests who have dedicated their lives to the Church and Her people. Ad Multos Annos!

[For more information on Fr. Tad’s work see www.ncbcenter.org or www.fathertad.com]

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