

“PROBLEMS OF MEDICAL ETHICS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD”

VITEBSK, BELARUS— VITEBSK OBLISPOLKOM, CONFERENCE HALL, 6 JUNE 2019

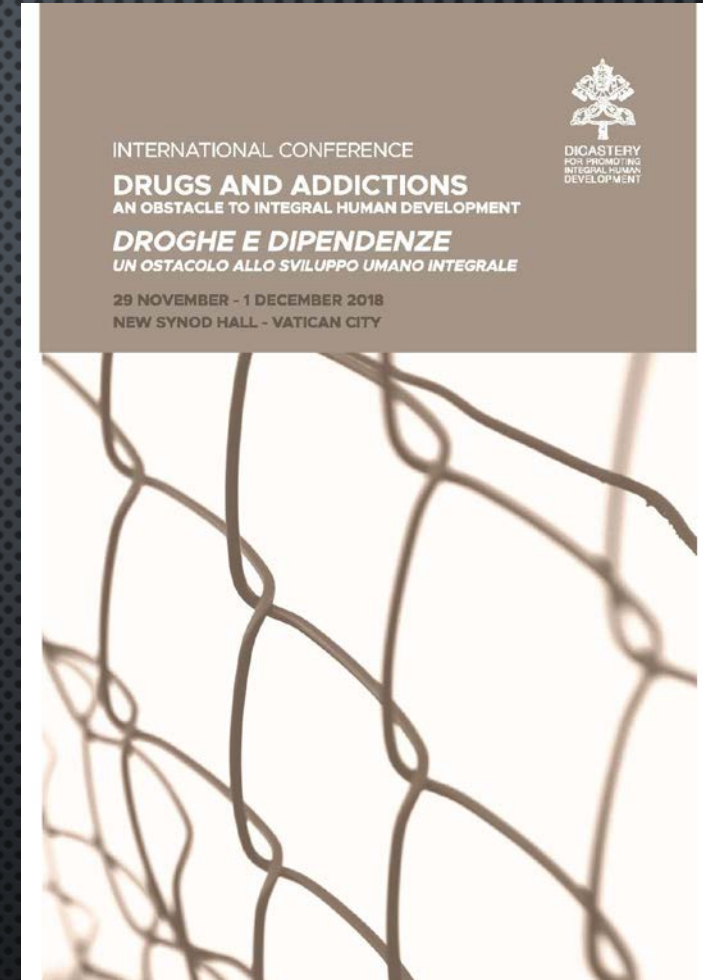
The New Charter for
Health Care Workers and
NEW FORMS OF ADDICTIONS

DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS

29 NOVEMBER-
1 DECEMBER 2018



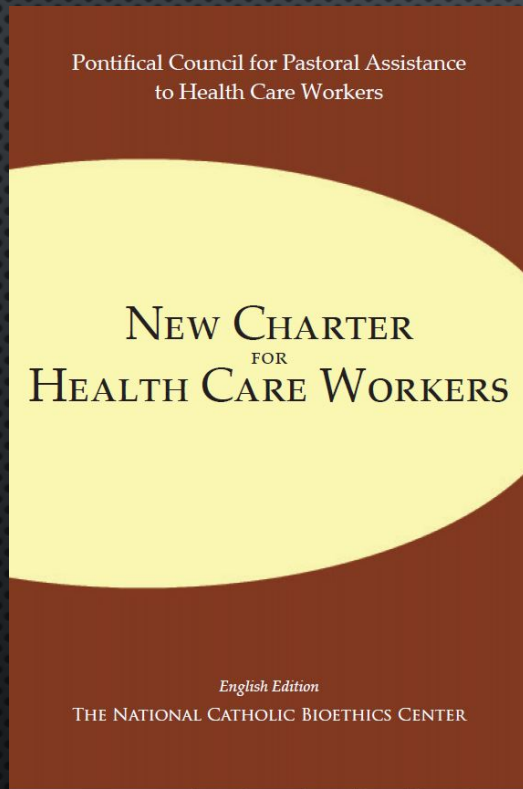
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE—**DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS**

- “**PANDEMIC**” with multiple and constantly changing implications
- **DEFICIENCY AND INADEQUACY** of varying degrees r.e. national measures adopted in the relation to the control of licit and illicit drugs
- **Battle** being fought on various levels:
 - **INTERNATIONALLY** (UN Conventions)
 - **REGIONALLY** (European Union, etc.)
 - **NATIONALLY** (legislation)
 - **LOCALLY** (work of therapeutic communities, etc.)

NEW CHARTER AND NEW FORMS OF ADDICTIONS

- I. DRUGS, DEPENDENCE AND ADDICTIONS
- II. CRISIS OF MEANING, HORIZONS OF HOPE
- III. REHABILITATION AND INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

THE NEW CHARTER FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS



- PART I PROCREATING
- PART II LIVING
- PART III DYING

I. DRUGS, DEPENDENCE AND ADDICTIONS

- ***DEPENDENCE***

“Habitual reliance on a substance or product . . . for which the individual experiences an irrepressible need, and the deprivation of which can cause mental and physical disturbances.”

—*New Charter, #121*



DRUGS, DEPENDENCE AND ADDICTIONS

- DRUGS
 - PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES
 - ALCOHOL
 - TOBACCO
-
- *INTERNET/PORNOGRAPHY*
 - *GAMING/GAMBLING*



DRUGS: Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin, etc.

- **COCAINE** is associated with an increase in the consumption of heroin, which “ still accounts for the majority, around 80%, of new opioid-related treatment demands in Europe” (*European Drug Report, 2017*).
- Intoxicating **NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES** (NPS) and extremely potent synthetic drugs, favoured among young people, are easily accessible, cost little and can be ordered online.
- **CANNABIS** still holds primacy in terms of consumption, and International debate continues on its use for therapy and/or recreation.

DRUGS: Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin, etc.

- **FENTANYL:**
NORTH AMERICAN OPIOID CRISIS
 - 63,000 DRUG-RELATED DEATHS IN U.S. 2017

- **TRAMADOL:**
WEST AND NORTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST

- **31 MILLION** suffer from drug use disorders (point of addiction requiring treatment)
 - ONLY **1 IN 6** PERSONS ACTUALLY RECEIVE THIS TREATMENT



NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

"Substances of abuse, either in a pure form or in preparation, that are not controlled under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 or the 1971 Convention, but that may pose a public health threat."



—UN ODC

- **XANAX, PROZAC, ATIVAN, ETC.**
- **KETAMINE:**
veterinary, surgery drug → hallucinogen, sexual assault
- **BATH SALTS**

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO [INTERNET AND GAMING]

- Moral duty to safeguard and preserve health, and with it life
- Alcohol dependence and Highly deleterious effects for the person's physical, psychological, and spiritual health.
- Health care policies, health care workers: prevention and dissuasion, educational activities

—*New Charter, # 125-127*

2. CRISIS OF MEANING, HORIZONS OF HOPE

THE PHENOMENON OF DEPENDENCE IS RELATED TO:

- The **crisis of values and meaning** from which contemporary society and culture suffer
- The stress and frustrations generated by the **relentless demand for efficiency**, by **activism**, and by the heightened **competitiveness** and **anonymity** of social interactions

—*New Charter, # 121*



2. CRISIS OF MEANING, HORIZONS OF HOPE

“The question of **development** is closely bound up with our understanding of the human soul . . . **The human being develops when he grows in the spirit,** when his soul comes to know itself and the truths that God has implanted deep within, when he enters into dialogue with himself and his Creator.”

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, #76



2. CRISIS OF MEANING, HORIZONS OF HOPE



“When he is far away from God,
man is unsettled and ill at ease.”

—POPE BENEDICT XVI, *CARITAS IN VERITATE* #76

2. CRISIS OF MEANING, HORIZONS OF HOPE

“The **new forms of slavery to drugs** and the lack of hope into which so many people fall can be explained not only in sociological and psychological terms but also **in essentially spiritual terms**.

The emptiness in which the soul feels abandoned, despite the availability of countless therapies for body and psyche, leads to suffering.”

—POPE BENEDICT XVI, *CARITAS IN VERITATE* #76

3. REHABILITATION: FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY



"A judgment that drug use is illicit is not a judgment that condemns the person, who experiences his own condition of dependence as 'a heavy slavery'."

—*NEW CHARTER, # 123*

3. REHABILITATION: FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY

"Drugs have inflicted a deep wound on our society and ensnared many people in their web. Many victims have lost their freedom and have been enslaved to them; enslaved by an addiction we could call 'chemical'." —*POPE FRANCIS, 2016*



1. *Absence of family*
2. *Social Pressures*
3. *Propaganda of drug dealers*
4. *Desire for new experiences*

3. REHABILITATION: FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY

"Every drug addict has a unique personal story and must be listened to, understood, loved, and, insofar as is possible, healed and purified. We cannot stoop to the injustice of categorizing drug addicts as if they were objects or broken machines; each person must be valued and appreciated in his or her dignity in order to enable them to be healed. The dignity of the person is what we are called to seek out. They continue to possess, more than ever, a dignity as children of God."

—*POPE FRANCIS, 2016*

REHABILITATION: FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY



"And I wish to repeat to all of you who struggle against drug addiction, and to those family members who share in your difficulties: the Church is not distant from your troubles, but accompanies you with affection. The Lord is near you and he takes you by the hand. Look to him in your most difficult moments and he will give you consolation and hope."

—*POPE FRANCIS, 2013*

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-**Drugs and Addictions**

- **ADULT RESPONSIBILITY** to take particular care of young people
 - **EDUCATION AND PREVENTION**
 - **INTERACTION AND COMMUNICATION** between adults and young people
- **DENUNCIATION** of silence and indifference
 - Human empathy and service are necessary elements in the realization of “best practices”

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Care & Rehabilitation:

- *Fazenda da Esperança* (Brazil)
- *CEYTEC Foundation* (Argentina)
- *Comunità Cenacolo* (Italy)
- *Nuovi Orizzonti Communities* (Italy)
- World Federation Against Drugs-WFAD
- World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (U.S.A.)

