

The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly
Spring 2008

“Consciousness and Human Nature”

**Deadline for Submissions:
July 3, 2007**

This special issue of *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* will examine the proper characterization of consciousness and its place in human nature. The following questions are designed to generate submission ideas, and should not be viewed as our exclusive interest.

Is the Aristotelian-Thomistic view that human beings possess an intellectual soul correct? How does the consciousness of the animal differ from that of the human being? Can we still speak intelligently of the mind as an immaterial substance? Can we still speak intelligently of intellect and will as spiritual powers? Is the brain the locus of the soul? How does one understand the union of mind and brain? What can empirical science tell us about the presence of an immaterial mind? Does the embryo have a mind? If so, when does it appear? If not, what grounds its value at conception? How is this important to the problem of identifying the beginning of human life? Is the value of life tied to a person's level of consciousness? How much weight should be given to the findings of neurobiological science in assessing levels of consciousness? What level of consciousness is possessed by the PVS patient? What is wrong with assuming the naturalistic principle that the mind is reducible to the brain? What is the morality of the machine-enhancement of human consciousness? What dangers are posed to free will by technological interventions on the brain? What neural structures are necessary for thought, consciousness, awareness, and sensation, and how does our ability to measure the presence of these structures affect our moral evaluation of the person?

Submissions should be sent to Edward J. Furton, M.A., Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief: efurton@ncbcenter.org; or be sent by surface mail to the *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*, 6399 Drexel Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19151-2511. Materials under consideration for publication in *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* should not be submitted elsewhere while under review.

Please feel free to contact the editor with any inquiries you may have concerning submissions to *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*.

Submission Dates for *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly*

Spring 2008: July 3, 2007

Summer 2008: October 3, 2007

Autumn 2008: January 3, 2008

Winter 2008: April 3, 2008