# **Contents**

#### Preface xiii

# Part I: Understanding Church Teaching

# 1: The Values Underlying the Teachings of the Catholic Church in Regard to Medical Ethics 3

INTRODUCTION 3, THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF PERSON 4, MORAL NORMS 4, NEEDS AND GOODS 5, NATURAL AND CULTURAL NEEDS 5, PERSON IN COMMUNITY 6, THE CHRISTIAN NOTION OF HEALTH 8, THE CHRISTIAN NOTION OF SICKNESS AND DEATH 9, THE CHRISTIAN NOTION OF SEXUALITY 11, CONCLUSION 14, NOTES AND REFERENCES 14

#### 2: Formation of Conscience 16

INTRODUCTION 16, MISTAKEN NOTIONS OF CONSCIENCE 17, FORMING A CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE 19, CONSCIENCE IS NOT INFALLIBLE 21, FAITH AND ASSENT IN THE FORMATION OF CONSCIENCE 22, VARIOUS LEVELS OF TEACHING 23, DISSENT 25, SUMMARY 26, NOTES AND REFERENCES 27

# PART II: Specific Teachings of the Church

29

1

#### 3: Abortion 31

Gospel of Life 31

Encyclical Letter on Christian Marriage 34

Declaration on Procured Abortion 36

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 39

Pastoral Guidelines for the Catholic Hospital and Catholic Health Care Personnel 40

#### 4: Addiction 44

From Despair to Hope: Family and Drug Addiction 44

#### 5: Aging 48

Society and the Aged: Toward Reconciliation 48

#### 6: AIDS 50

Africa's AIDS Crisis 50
The Many Faces of AIDS: A Gospel Response 52
Statement on Public Schools' Condom Distribution 58

#### 7: Anencephaly 60

Moral Principles Concerning Infants with Anencephaly 60

_			
เก	nı	PT	nts

vi 8: Artificial Insemination	62
-------------------------------	----

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 62

Christian Norms of Morality 66

Fundamental Laws Governing Conjugal Relations 68

#### 9: Artificial Reproduction 69

Gospel of Life 69

#### 10: Assisted Suicide 70

Gospel of Life 70

Living and Dying According to the Voice of Faith 71

## 11: Autonomy 74

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World 74

## 12: Autopsy 77

Moral Problems in Medicine 77

#### 13: Brain Death 78

Report on Prolonging Life and Determining Death 78

The Prolongation of Life 80

Guidelines for the Determination of Brain Death 82

#### 14: Capital Punishment 84

Gospel of Life 84

An Opportune Time to Review the Correctional System 85

## 15: Catholic Health Care 87

The Rationale of Catholic Health Care 87

Health Care: Ministry in Transition 89

# 16: Children and the Family 93

The Christian Family in the Modern World 93

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 97

The Transmission of Life 99

# 17: Confidentiality 102

Christian Principles and the Medical Profession 102

The Intangibility of the Human Person 103

# 18: Contraception 104

Encyclical Letter on Christian Marriage 104

Encyclical Letter on the Regulation of Births 105

The Christian Family in the Modern World 112

Human Sexuality from God's Perspective 116

Vade Mecum for Confessors Concerning Some Aspects of the Morality of Conjugal Life 119

vii

#### 19: Embryo Research 122

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 122

Biological Experimentation 126

Gospel of Life 127

#### 20: Ethical and Religious Directives 128

Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services 128

#### 21: Euthanasia 148

Gospel of Life 148

Declaration on Euthanasia 150

The Mystery of Life and Death 152

Opposing Euthanasia 153

#### 22: Family and Marriage 155

Encyclical Letter on Christian Marriage 155

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World 157

The Christian Family in the Modern World 163

#### 23: Genetics 165

Critical Decisions; Genetic Testing and its Implications 165

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 168

Moral Aspects of Genetics 170

The Ethics of Genetic Manipulation 172

Reflections on Cloning 174

#### 24: Handicapped 179

Pastoral Statement of the United States Catholic Bishops on Handicapped People 179

## 25: Health Care Reform 181

Resolution on Health Care Reform 181

Criteria for Evaluating Health Care Reform 183

#### 26: Health Care Administration 186

Health Care: Ministry in Transition 186

#### 27: Homosexuality 190

The Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons 190

Declaration on Certain Problems of Sexual Ethics 193

Responding to Legislative Proposals on Discrimination against

Homosexuals 194

Note on Church Teaching Concerning Homosexual People 198

_				
L	on	te	n	ts

viii 28: Human L	ife	200
------------------	-----	-----

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 200

Gospel of Life 203

Biological Experimentation 204

A Patient is a Person 206

## 29: Human Rights 208

Gospel of Life 208

Pacem in Terris 210

U.S.C.C. Platform Testimony 211

## 30: Hydration and Nutrition 214

Building a Culture of Life 214

Nutrition and Hydration: Moral and Pastoral Reflections 215

Questions of Ethics Regarding the Fatally Ill and the Dying 220

On Withdrawing Artificial Nutrition and Hydration 221

## 31: Informed Consent 223

The Intangibility of the Human Person 223

## 32: In Vitro Fertilization 225

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 225

Fertility and Sterility 230

#### 33: Labor Relations 232

On Human Work 232

Labor Relations in Catholic Hospitals 235

## 34: Living Will 237

The Rights of the Terminally Ill 237

Guidelines for Legislation on Life-Sustaining Treatment 241

Living Will and Proxy for Health Care Decisions 244

## 35: Medical Profession 245

The Exalted Character of the Medical Profession 245

The Foundation of Medical Morality 247

Catholic Doctors: Higher Witnesses 249

The Ethics of Genetic Manipulation 253

Physicians, Health Care Educators Must Assert Christian Identity 254

Care Providers: Neither Lords of Life nor Conquerors of Death 255

AMA Address: Medicine's Moral Crisis 256

#### 36: Murder 259

Gospel of Life 259

ix

<i>37:</i>	National Health Insurance 261 Statement on National Health Insurance 261 Pastoral Letter on Health and Health Care 264
38:	Natural Family Planning 266 Why Natural Family Planning Differs from Contraception 266 The Christian Family in the Modern World 268 Natural Family Planning 270 Responsible Procreation 272 Human Sexuality from God's Perspective 274
39:	Nursing 275 The Nursing Vocation 275 Questions of Ethics Regarding the Fatally Ill and the Dying 277
40:	Ordinary and Extraordinary Means to Prolong Life 279 Gospel of Life 279 The Prolongation of Life 280 Statement on Uniform Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 282 Declaration on Euthanasia 283
41:	Organ Donation and Transplantation 284  Gospel of Life 284  Blood and Organ Donors 285  Tissue Transplantation 286  Many Ethical, Legal, and Social Questions Must be Examined in Greater  Depth 288
42:	Pain Relief 291 Gospel of Life 291 Declaration on Euthanasia 292 Questions of Ethics Regarding the Fatally Ill and the Dying 293 Christian Principles and the Medical Profession 295
<b>43</b> :	Pharmacology 297 The Responsibility of the Pharmacist 297
44:	Population 299  Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World 299  Population Development 300  Gospel of Life 303  Population Trends: Ethical and Pastoral Dimensions 304  Population Conference Draft Document Criticized 307

45: Proxy Consent 310

Declaration on Euthanasia 310

The Prolongation of Life 312

The Intangibility of the Human Person 311

# x 46: Principle of Cooperation 313

Gospel of Life 313

## 47: Principle of Double Effect 314

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 314

Ti Ann a

The Attempt on Innocent Human Life 315

The Prolongation of Life 316

## 48: Principle of Totality 317

Christian Principles and the Medical Profession 317 The Intangibility of the Human Person 318

## 49: Psychotherapy 321

The Moral Component of the Therapeutic Task 321
The Image of God in People with Mental Illness 323

On Psychotherapy and Religion 326

The Intangibility of the Human Person 330

## 50: Public Policy 331

Gospel of Life 331

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 333

The Several Meanings of "Religion and Politics" 336

## 51: Rape 340

Guidelines for Catholic Hospitals Treating Victims of Sexual Assault 340 Use of the "Morning-After Pill" in Cases of Rape 342

A Reply: Use of the "Morning-After Pill" in Cases of Rape 349

# 52: Research on Human Subjects 351

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 351

Medicines at the Service of Human Life 356

Biological Experimentation 357

A Patient Is a Person 359

The Intangibility of the Human Person 361

# 53: Right to Health Care 365

Pastoral Letter on Health and Health Care 365

Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S.

Economy 369

The Right to Health Care 370

# 54: Sacredness of Human Life 373

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World 373

Celebrate Life 375

Call for a Consistent Ethic of Life 376

хi

## 55: Scientific Knowledge 378

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World 378 Moral Aspects of Genetics 379

#### 56: Sexuality 382

The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality 382
Declaration on Certain Problems of Sexual Ethics 386
Educational Guidance in Human Love 394

#### 57: Sterilization 397

Fundamental Laws Governing Conjugal Relations 397
Sterilization in Catholic Hospitals 398
Commentary on: Reply of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on Sterilization in Catholic Hospitals 400
Statement on Tubal Ligation 402
Response on Uterine Isolation and Related Matters 403

#### 58: Suffering 405

The Christian Meaning of Human Suffering 405
The Gospel of Life 409
Christian Principles and the Medical Profession 410
Declaration on Euthanasia 412

#### 59: Suicide 413

Gospel of Life 413

## 60: Surgery 414

Surgery 414
Removal of a Healthy Organ 415

## 61: Surrogate Mothers 417

Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation 417

New Jersey Bishops' Statement "On Surrogate Motherhood" 418

# 62: Truthtelling 420

Christian Principles and the Medical Profession 420

Ouestion of Ethics Regarding the Fatally Ill and the Dying 421

# 63: Withholding Life Support 422

Gospel of Life 422
The Prolongation of Life 423
Declaration on Euthanasia 426
Guidelines for Legislation on Life-Sustaining Treatment 428
Question of Ethics Regarding the Fatally Ill and the Dying 431