

PRAYER

Dear Lord,
Guide us to effectively draw on the light and life of Jesus Christ and the Catholic moral tradition in addressing ethical challenges in health care and biomedical research.

Strengthen our desire to understand the wisdom of the teachings of the Catholic Church on respect for all stages of human life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Works of Mercy

CORPORAL

1. Feed the Hungry Mt 25:35
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty Mt 25:35
3. Clothe the Naked Mt 25:36
4. Shelter the Homeless Mt 25:35
5. Visit the Sick Mt 25:36
6. Visit the Imprisoned Mt 25:35
7. Bury the Dead Mt 25:40

SPIRITUAL

1. Instruct the Uninformed Mt 16:15
2. Counsel the Doubtful Jn 14:27
3. Admonish Sinners Lk 15:7
4. Bear Wrongs Patiently Lk 6:27
5. Forgive Offenses Mt 6:12
6. Comfort the Sorrowful Mt 11:28
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead Jn 17:24

***No one person can do everything,
but everyone can do something.***

BIOETHICS

Reproductive Technology

Stem Cell Research

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

CHURCH TEACHING

INSTRUCTION DIGNITAS PERSONAE ON CERTAIN BIOETHICAL QUESTIONS

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 4

In recent decades, medical science has made significant strides in understanding human life in its initial stages. Human biological structures and the process of human generation are better known. These developments are certainly positive and worthy of support when they serve to overcome or correct pathologies and succeed in re-establishing the normal functioning of human procreation. On the other hand, they are negative and cannot be utilized when they involve the destruction of human beings or when they employ means which contradict the dignity of the person or when they are used for purposes contrary to the integral good of man.

What is BIOETHICS?

We face unprecedented scientific progress that touches upon the mysteries of life and poses serious ethical challenges. We are called to reflect on these issues and to promote and safeguard the dignity of the human person in health care and the life sciences. Church teachings draw from a moral tradition that acknowledges the unity of faith and reason and builds on the solid foundation of natural law. Two major examples are:

REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

NFP refers to the scientific, natural, and moral methods of **Natural Family Planning** that can help married couples either achieve or postpone pregnancy. NFP respects the unitive and procreative nature of the conjugal act.

Some means of trying to achieve or avoid pregnancy are considered immoral because they treat human life as a means to an end. In **IVF**, babies are produced through a technical process and destroyed if they are unwanted.

Contraception also uses a technical process, but its purpose is to disrupt conception, and possibly cause an abortion.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

A stem cell is a relatively unspecialized cell that can make other cells like itself or cells with more specialized functions. **Adult Stem Cell Research** uses cells obtained from adult tissue, umbilical cord blood, and other sources that pose no moral problem. Thousands of lives have been saved by adult stem cells, most often in the form of bone marrow transplants. **Embryonic Stem Cell Research** has never successfully treated any human patient, but it uses and destroys embryos, which are tiny, developing babies.

RESOURCES and IDEAS

Learn, educate others, & donate time, treasure, &/or talent for a local organization:

National Catholic Bioethics Center

Education & FREE Ethics Consults 24/7
ncbcenter.org/bioethics-resources
1-215-877-2660

U.S. Bishops uscbb.org/topics

Archdiocese of New Orleans

nolacatholic.org/respectlife

Womans New Life Clinic 504-831-3117
womansnewlife.com/womens-health/family-planning-fertility-awareness-methods/

Archdiocese Office of Marriage & Family Life

Natural Family Planning 504-861-6200

ASK a **Local Library or Write to the editor or post on Social Media** to share info about bioethics

Pray for all those who are struggling to find peace in difficult life decisions, that they may have the resources and courage to form their consciences and live true to respect and protection of all life.

Read what Pope Francis says about the Catholic response to bioethics questions:

vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-03/pope-francis-march-2022-prayer-intention-bioethical-challenges.html

