Contemporary Moral Questions

In this class we will do an investigation of the theological and pastoral questions raised by contemporary moral issues. Together we will analyze the moral questions that arise in our pluralistic society and illumined by Catholic teachings and documents will try to answer some of the questions you will find in your pastoral work as a deacons.

Requirements:

Be present at all class sessions. Read the assigned readings before each class. The texts you will need: Copy of *Humanae Vitae* of Pope Paul VI. The main text we will use is: Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life, Third Edition by William E. May and some paragraphs of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Do not get distracted with your cell phones during class. It is a lack of respect for your classmates and for the teacher when you are texting, whatsapping, tweeting, Facebooking, taking pictures, surfing the web etc… during the sessions. You will have a break and during that time you can answer the calls.

Syllabus

Before the first class you must have read the encyclical letter of Pope Paul VI *Humanae Vitae*.

May 18: Introduction and description of the course. We will discuss the issues and prophesies mentioned in *Humanae Vitae* and compare them to our reality in the church and in the world today. Read carefully No. 17 and bring to the class some examples in which those prophesies are fulfilled in our time as a result of legalizing, promoting and practicing contraception.

Read Catholic Bioethics pgs. 1-57


Read Catholic Bioethics pgs. 59-79 and Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1749-1832


Read Catholic Bioethics pgs. 81-120


Marriage and the Generation of Human Life. Marriage, marital rights and capacities. The meaning of the marital act, begetting human life through the marital act.

The generation of Human Life through New Reproductive Technologies. The teachings of Pope Pius XII and the pontifical academy for life, the new reproductive technologies, artificial fertilization, artificial insemination, IVF and embryo transfer, alternative technologies using male and female gametic cells. Cloning or agamic reproduction.

Ethical and Theological Evaluation of the New Reproductive Technologies. Ethical reasons why non-marital ways of generating new human life are intrinsically immoral. The basic theological reasons why human life ought to be generated only in and through the marital act.


IVF’s Harm to Babies Conceived IV or by Other New Reproductive Technologies and the Women who participate in Such Procedures

Rescuing Frozen Embryos.

**Read Catholic Bioethics pgs. 159-206**


**Read Catholic Bioethics pgs. 251-292. Study for your final exam.**

June 29: Class from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and written test from 9:00 to 9:45 pm


There is an extensive bibliography for the study of bioethics. The material covered during the short 7 weeks just scraped the surface. You can read on your own the book by Cardinal Elio Sgrecca entitled *Personalist Bioethics* that covers a great deal of topics and material.
I pray that your ministry as deacons goes well and if in the future I can be of any help do not hesitate to call me, e-mail me or visit me. I do not have Facebook, nor Twitter, nor Instagram but I do have friends. God bless you. Fr Jorge A Gomez.