

#### IV. Moral Issues

##### A. Abortion

###### 1. Hippocratic oath

- a) Hippocrates (460-377 BC)
- b) Considered the father of medicine
- c) The oath originally condemned abortion and euthanasia

###### 2. Vatican II - called abortion "an unspeakable crime"

3. One of the few offenses that carry a penalty of automatic excommunication

###### 4. Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life)

a) Lack of outrage over abortion is a clear sign of dangerous moral crisis

b) Euphemisms like "termination of pregnancy" obscure the true nature of abortion: murder of the worst kind - an innocent person

c) No one can be more innocent than an unborn baby - nor more helpless - murdered in silence

d) Mothers cannot escape blame - God entrust care of child to its mother - we must support mothers to choose life

e) Fathers are just as much to blame if not more, especially if they encouraged the mother to get an abortion

f) Legislators who support action laws are likewise guilty

g) Those who promote sexual permissiveness must also share the blame for abortion

5. I personally don't think abortion will come to an end until we give up contraception

###### 6. Pro-Abortion Arguments

a) "It's my body; I have a right to choose"

b) "The fetus is just a clump of cells"

c) "An unborn baby can't reason or interact with people.

Therefore, it is not really a person, so we can kill it

d) "A fetus becomes human when it can live on its own outside the mother's womb"

e) Abortion is legal

f) "If abortion becomes illegal, it will still go on in back alley

g) "You can't legislate morality"

h) "I'm personally opposed to abortion, but I'm not really going to tell others what to do"

i) "I'm opposed to late term abortions"

j) "We must make exceptions for rape and incest"

k) "Better an aborted baby than an unwanted baby"

l) "I couldn't give my child away for someone else to raise"

7. Life begins at conception

8. Lead to weird laws where someone can be convicted of double homicide if mother and unborn baby are both killed

9. Abortion is about convenience and not take responsibility - Carissa Shank

B. Euthanasia (Mercy killing)

1. Done by positive (injection) or omission (starvation)

2. Reasons it is becoming more and more accepted

a) Lack of faith

b) Suffering is not meaningful

c) Weak resolve

d) Chronic Disease

e) Burden of Disease

3. Church teaches that human life is sacred and should last from conception to natural death

a) CCC 2276-2283

b) Gospel of Life: 39

c) Declaration on Euthanasia

1) Any deliberate attempt on innocent human life is a crime

2) This is murder plain and simple - might not be a mortal sin

3) Must distinguish from acts of sacrifice for a greater good

4) Pleas are often cries for help and love rather than a true desire for death

5) Again, we are never permitted to take innocent life

6) We can relieve extreme pain, even give heavy doses of medication even if it hastens death - the intention is pain relief - the side effect is shortening of life - covered by principle of double effect

7) As Catholics we believe that suffering has redemptive value

8) Ordinary means of treatment

9) Extraordinary means of treatment - we can forgo

10) When death is imminent we must still receive food, water, warmth, and hygiene

d) Answering Euthanasia supporters