

MO841DE: Medical and Health Care Morality

As a deacon (or a person in Church ministry), you will be asked to help parishioners grapple with emotionally charged medical issues. This course will present fundamental Church principles relating to ethics and medical ethics that will assist you in these discussions.

Course Focus

This course studies the theology of the human body, personhood, and human dignity in protecting life from beginning to end and in treating illness.

This course will be of particular interest to deacons and their colleagues in ministry who are involved in hospital, nursing home, ministry to the aging, or other similar settings.

Included Topics

The following topics have been chosen for this course since they are the most difficult topics in the ministry of medical and health care. They include:

- General Principles of Ethics and Medical Ethics
- Pregnancy and Delivery
- The Marital Covenant as the Foundation of Human Existence
- Moral and Immoral Surgery
- Artificial and Assisted Reproduction
- Experimentation on Human Subjects
- Embryonic Life
- Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide
- Contraception
- Obligations to Preserve Life of the Sick and Dying
- Questions on Sexual Issues
- Material Cooperation

Course Components

This course draws from the disciplines of

- Pastoral Theology
- Pastoral Counseling
- Moral Theology
- Biomedical Ethics

to emphasize the critical importance of ministering to the faithful as they seek to live moral and ethical lives.

Course Material Integration

Materials used in this course will be drawn from:

- Church documents
- Current research
- Practical pastoral experiences

in order to adequately respond to the issues faced by today's Christians.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Be familiar with the ethical principles of the Church that inform medical and health care morality.
- Be cognizant of the ethical principles being employed by parishioners.
- Logically guide parishioners through the thought process to arrive at a conclusion based on Church principles.

Diaconal Standards Presented During the Course

All of our course objectives are directly linked to the approved standards presented in the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of the Permanent Deacons in the United States.

Materials to Purchase for the Course

Textbook

The following book will be used throughout the course. *Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life - 3rd Edition* by William E.

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor; 3rd edition (July 21, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1612787029

ISBN-13: 978-1612787022

Subscription

A subscription to the National Catholic Bioethics Center, for \$28.00, is available at:

[Link to subscribe to "Ethics and Medics" at the NCBC website.](https://ncbcenter.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1269)

<https://ncbcenter.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=1269>

You will be using this site for readings on a weekly basis. Each reading is approximately two pages, and the ethical issues are timely. Your subscription will allow you access to the readings and will allow you to stay current on biomedical ethics for a year. You will discover what a wonderful site this is and how it will keep you informed and involved in an important area of ministry.

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