

The Vatican and Bioethics

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The Vatican & Bioethics

- .Topic Specific Documents
- .Related Documents
- .Bioethical and Related Principles
- .The National Catholic Bioethics Center
- .Range of Applications
- .Conclusions

Topic-Specific Documents

- Papal Documents

- Humanae Vitae, Pope Paul VI, 1968
- Evangelium Vitae, Pope John Paul II, 1995
- Address “Life-Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State”, 2004
- Address to Association of Urology, Pope Pius XII, 1953

Topic-Specific Documents

- CDF Documents
 - on Artificial Nutrition and Hydration, 2007
 - on “Uterine Isolation”, etc., 1993
 - Donum Vitae, 1987
 - Declaration on Euthanasia, 1980
 - Declaration on Procured Abortion, 1974

Documents & General Principles

- Conciliar Documents
 - Gaudium et Spes, 1965
- Papal Documents
 - Evangelium Vitae, Pope John Paul II, 1995
 - Veritatis Splendor, Pope John Paul II, 1993
- International Theological Commission
 - Communion and Stewardship, 2004

Basic Principles

- .Principle of Objective Morality
- .Principle of Human Anthropology
- .Principle of Totality
- .Double Effect
 - . Not yet fully sanctioned
 - . Accepted for self-defense & war

National Catholic Bioethics Center

.<http://www.ncbcenter.org>

.Charter:

- . Promote and safeguard the dignity of the human person... through research, education, consultation and publication in the health and life sciences.

.Making Sense Out of Bioethics: Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

- . <http://www.ncbcenter.org/makingsense.asp>

Range of Applications

.Reproduction and the beginning of life

- . Artificial Contraception
- . Abortion (Surgical, Pharmacological, Prophylactic)
- . Artificial Conception
- . Experiments on Human Embryos and Cloning

.Euthanasia and the end of life

- . Extraordinary Life Maintenance
- . Nutrition and Hydration
- . Palliative Care
- . Brain Death vs. Persistent Vegetative State

Conclusions

- Conciliar Documents, Papal Documents, CDF Documents, etc. all enunciate and follow a consistent set of ethical principles.
- These principles support a “higher anthropology” of human dignity and vocation according to the Creator’s purposes.