

Respecting Life

Chapter 42 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will recognize that from the moment of conception, all people have a right to life and dignity.
- The participants will identify ways in which the Fifth Commandment is violated in society and alternatives to choices that destroy life.
- The participants will reflect on the different ways people can respect life.

Content Summary

1. Human beings are sacred, from the moment of conception until the moment of death, because we are made in the image and likeness of God.
2. The Fifth Commandment is, “You shall not kill.”
3. Abortion is a procedure that intentionally ends an unborn child’s development. It is a grave sin.
4. Abortion is legal in the United States and in some other countries. This does not make it right.
5. Every human life is sacred, from the moment of conception until natural death. Murder, the act of killing someone on purpose, is a sin against the sacredness of life.
6. Some activities of everyday life can lead us to believe that violence is okay.
7. The principle of legitimate defense allows someone to protect one’s life or the lives of others, even at the cost of someone’s life. This principle does not extend to the protection of property.
8. Suicide, the taking of one’s own life, is also forbidden by the Fifth Commandment. The decision of when life should end is God’s decision.
9. Euthanasia, ending the lives of people who are suffering, is murder. Very ill people should be helped to die with dignity, in God’s time, through various options available.
10. A decision can be made to not use extraordinary means to keep a person alive. Discontinuing medical treatments can be moral when the intention is not to cause death.
11. Scandal is an action or series of actions that can lead others to sin.
12. War must be avoided if at all possible. If it cannot or will not be avoided, it must be fought according to universal principles arising both from natural law and the teachings of the Church. Resources needed for the necessities of life are too often used for warfare, and this is sinful.

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