

Examination Questions for Diocesan Respect Life Certification

Watch each video (approximately an hour in length)

Diocesan Bioethics Video Page: <https://tinyurl.com/ycf6gtub>

Answer the following questions in short answer form

Return to Marybeth.phillips@raldioc.org to receive certification

Conscience

1. If conscience is said to be the voice of God, how is it possible it can err?
2. What is Natural Law? Discuss how a rejection of Natural Law leads to moral chaos.
3. What is concupiscence?
4. What is vincible ignorance?
5. Name the 5 qualities of a good examination of conscience?

Abortion

1. What are the basic philosophical reasons that support the religious believer's position on human life beginning at conception?
2. Explore the scientific, moral and legal reasons to oppose abortion.
3. Define the acronym SLED and its usefulness in defining personhood. Give the Pro-life argument for each letter.
4. Discuss the connection between contraception and abortion and why John Paul II calls them "fruits of the same tree."
5. Compare and contrast what secular culture means by "quality of life" and what the church means.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

1. What are the two general classifications of stem cells and how are they ethically different?
2. Which type of stem cell has been used to treat many forms of human disease and why hasn't the other type been successful?
3. Why has the scientific community moved toward using adult stem cells for research and away from the use of stem cells derived from destroyed human embryos?
4. Why does science state that human life begins at fertilization? When does personhood occur?
5. Why would it be more likely that stem cells could cure Parkinson's Disease than Alzheimer's Disease?

Theology of the Body and Infertility

1. Marital intercourse is a physical re-presentation of what?
2. John Paul II speaks of the importance of making a gift of oneself; why is this gift-of-self essential to marriage in particular?
3. When compared to marital intercourse, what are the "failings" of sex outside of marriage? Asked another way, what are the characteristics of marital intercourse that cannot be duplicated in sex outside of marriage?
4. Review: what are the criteria that *Donum Vitae* gives for evaluating the legitimacy of any given medical intervention to treat infertility?
5. From the topic of natural family planning vs. contraception we are familiar with the inseparable connection between the unitive and procreative meanings of marital intercourse (c.f. *Humanae Vitae* 12); how does the Church's teaching on treatments for infertility also affirm this principle?

End of Life Medical Care

1. Define extraordinary care and give an example in a sick patient.
2. Give some examples of excessive burdens that might occur during an illness.
3. When would the use of nutrition and hydration become extraordinary in a medical patient?
4. Why is the so called vegetative state not a reason to withhold nutrition and hydration?
5. Can a physician morally use so much pain relief medication as to render a patient confused if there is no other way to relieve the patient's pain?

Legal Documents for End of Life Planning

1. John's mother, Grace, is 92 years old and is in good health. She is moving into a nursing home and the staff asks her to sign a MOST form. John is serving as her health care power of attorney. What should he advise?
2. John recently created a living will but after he got home he found the following language: "I desire that my life not be prolonged by life-sustaining procedures if I am terminally ill, permanently in a coma, suffer severe dementia, or am in a persistent vegetative state." What is problematic about the wording? How should John change it to reflect Catholic teaching?
3. John recently completed both a living will and a healthcare power of attorney. Is there any potential risk to this approach? What can he do to minimize that risk?
4. John does not know anyone who would be willing to serve as his proxy for a healthcare power of attorney. Should he do a living will? Give one good reason why he should and one good reason why he should not.

Death by Neurological Criteria

1. What are two concerns a dying patient or their family members may have regarding the determination of death? What are the concerns rooted in?
2. What is the difference between the definition of death and the determination of death?
3. What are the two methods used for medical science's determination of death? Are they two deaths? Why?
4. Why is the death of the brain stem so important in the determination of death by neurological criteria?
5. What conditions must exist to protect an organ donor?

Living Out the Gift

1. What is our deepest desire? Why do we seek to fulfill it?
2. What is the difference between "love" defined by the secular culture and the "love" we as Christians seek to express?
3. Why is it a lie to have sexual relations with someone we do not love?
4. What is the best way to bring about a culture of life?

Prenatal Screening and Catholic Teaching

1. Are noninvasive prenatal screenings diagnostic?
2. Are noninvasive prenatal screenings always accurate?
3. Why might a doctor consider abortion to be a "treatment"?
4. Can a parent decline "routine" prenatal screening?
5. What are some of the questions a parent should ask before having prenatal screening?