

Vocabulary for Unit 4

abortion: The deliberate termination of a pregnancy by killing the unborn child. It is a grave sin and a crime against human life.

adultery: Marital infidelity, or sexual activity between two persons, at least one of whom is married to another person. It is a sin against the Sixth Commandment.

artificial means of conception: The ability to create a new human life artificially, using means such as in vitro fertilization, artificial insemination, or surrogate parenting.

chastity: The virtue by which people are able to successfully and healthfully integrate their sexuality into their total person; recognized as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Also one of the vows of religious life.

conscience: The “interior voice,” guided by human reason and Divine Law, that leads us to understand ourselves as responsible for our actions, and prompts us to do good and avoid evil. To make good judgments, one needs to have a well-formed conscience.

culture of death: A term used to describe a society that does not hold human life sacred in all its stages. Such a society creates structures of sin that allow human life to be attacked when it is most vulnerable.

culture of life: A term used to describe a society that holds all life sacred, from conception to natural death. Such societies build social structures that protect and defend human life in all its stages.

diaspora: The movement, migration, or scattering of a people away from an established or ancestral homeland.

euthanasia: A direct action, or a deliberate lack of action, that causes the death of a person who is handicapped, sick, or dying. Euthanasia is a violation of the Fifth Commandment.

excommunication: A severe penalty that results from grave sin against Church law. The penalty is either imposed by a Church official or happens automatically as a result of the offense. An excommunicated person is not permitted to celebrate or receive the Sacraments.

fornication: Sexual intercourse between a man and a woman who are not married. It is morally wrong to engage in intercourse before Marriage, a sin against the Sixth Commandment.

immigration, immigrant: The movement of a person or a group of people to a new country, usually to take up permanent residence. The opposite of immigration is emigration, the movement of people out of a country. An immigrant is a person who has moved to take up residence in another country.

masturbation: Self-manipulation of one’s sexual organs for the purpose of erotic pleasure or to achieve orgasm. It is a sin against the Sixth Commandment because the act cannot result in the creation of new life and because God created sexuality not for self-gratification but to unify a husband and wife in Marriage.

migration, migrant: The movement of a person or a group of people from one place to another. A migrant moves from one place to another without establishing a permanent residence.

polygamy: Having more than one spouse, an act contrary to the dignity of marriage and a sin against the Sixth Commandment.



pornography: A written description or visual portrayal of a person or action that is created or viewed with the intention of stimulating sexual feelings. Creating or using pornography is a sin against the Sixth and Ninth Commandments.

racism: Treating people of a different race without the full respect their equal dignity requires.

refugee: Any person who seeks protection in another country because of war or natural disaster or because of a well-founded fear of persecution in his or her native land.

sexism: Treating people of one gender without the full respect their equal dignity requires.

suicide: Deliberately taking one's own life. It is a serious violation of the Fifth Commandment, for it is God's will that we preserve our own lives.

