

Vocabulary for Unit 7

adultery: Sexual activity between two persons, at least one of whom is married to another. Prohibited by the Sixth Commandment.

annulment: The declaration by the Church that a marriage is null and void, that is, it never existed as a sacramental union. Catholics who divorce must have the marriage annulled by the Church to be free to marry once again in the Church.

artificial insemination: The process by which a man's sperm and a woman's egg are united in a manner other than natural sexual intercourse. In the narrowest sense, it means injecting sperm into a woman's cervical canal. The procedure is morally wrong because it separates intercourse from the act of procreation.

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 the consecrated life.

cohabitation: When a man and woman live together as if they were husband and wife without actually being married.

concupiscence: The tendency of all human beings toward sin, as a result of Original Sin.

contraception: The deliberate attempt to interfere with the creation of new life as a result of sexual intercourse. It is morally wrong because a married couple must remain open to procreation whenever they engage in sexual intercourse.

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.

generative: As a theological term, something related to the power of producing new life.

in vitro fertilization: The fertilization of a woman's ovum (egg) with a man's sperm outside her body. The fertilized egg is transferred to the woman's uterus. The Church considers the process to be a moral violation of the dignity of procreation.

lust: Intense and uncontrolled desire for sexual pleasure. It is one of the seven capital sins.

masturbation: Self-manipulation of one's sexual organs for the purpose of erotic pleasure or to achieve orgasm. It is a sin 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.

modesty: The virtue of showing respect for one's own sexuality and the sexuality of others in our words, dress, and actions.

natural family planning (NFP): A natural method of spacing the birth of children in a marriage, practiced by recognizing the wife's fertile period and engaging in chaste abstinence from sexual relations during that time.

nuptial: Something related to marriage or a marriage ceremony.

polygamy: Having more than one spouse, an act contrary to the dignity of Marriage.



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.

prostitution: The act of providing sexual services in exchange for money, drugs, or other goods. It is a serious social evil and a sin against the Sixth Commandment.

purity of heart: The Beatitude that enables us to see the human body--ours and others'—as a manifestation of God's beauty.

sexual integrity: A state of being achieved by chastity and purity of heart; in this state there is nothing that divides you. Your inner and outer lives are united in respecting God's gift of sexuality.

surrogate motherhood: A medical process in which a woman becomes pregnant through artificial means and delivers a child for someone else. She may or may not be the child's biological mother. The procedure is morally wrong because it separates intercourse from the act of procreation and pregnancy.

temperance: The cardinal virtue by which one moderates his or her appetites and passions to achieve balance in the use of created goods.

