

Name _____

Unit 4 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

A–E

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 declared null 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 moral virtue by which people are able to successfully and healthfully integrate their sexuality into their total person, leading to an inner union of body and spirit: recognized as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

cohabitation A man and woman living together before marriage. Prohibited by the Sixth Commandment.

contraception The use of mechanical, chemical, or medical procedures to prevent conception from taking place as a result of sexual intercourse. Contraception is morally wrong because it violates the openness to procreation required of marriage and the inner truth of married love.

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

F–P

fornication Sexual intercourse between a man and a woman who are not married. It is morally wrong to engage in intercourse before marriage and is 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.

just war War involves many evils, no matter the circumstances. A war is only just and permissible when it meets strict criteria in protecting citizens from an unjust aggressor.

legitimate defense The teaching that you can use the amount of force necessary to defend yourself or nation from an aggressor if attacked.

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.

nuptial Something related to marriage or a marriage ceremony.

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



S–T

scandal An action or attitude—or the failure to act—that leads another person into sin.

surrogate motherhood A medical process in which a woman becomes pregnant through artificial means, often carrying and delivering the child for someone else. 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.

Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

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

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 receive Holy Communion or receive other sacraments until the excommunication has been lifted.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

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

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 is a sin against the Sixth Commandment.

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.

