

Vocabulary for Unit 6

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

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 against killing.

excommunication: A severe penalty the Church imposes on a Catholic who has committed a grave sin or offense against canon law in which the person is banned from celebrating or receiving the Sacraments. The Church imposes excommunication in the hope that the sinner will repent and be reconciled with God and the Church.

genetic engineering: The manipulation of an ovum's or fetus's genetic coding.

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 limited violence is morally acceptable in defending yourself or your nation from an attack.

prenatal diagnosis: Testing the embryo or fetus for diseases or birth defects while it is still in the womb.

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

stem cells: Unique cells that have the potential to reproduce themselves as different human tissues and organs.

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.

