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.