

**University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, IN  
Course Outline**

**Course Title:** Christian Ethics and Pastoral Practice  
**Course Number:** Theo 60609  
**Teacher:** Paulinus I. Odozor, C.S.Sp.  
**Date:** Summer Semester 2008  
**Class days:** July 7-July 26: Mondays to Fridays  
**Class Time:** 10:40am-1:00pm  
**Class Location:** 207 DeBartolo Hall  
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**Contacting Fr Odozor**

Students are free to drop in on me unannounced at anytime in my office. It is my pleasure to meet with students. Therefore, students should feel free to approach me for help with their school work or to come to talk to me about anything. Since I have other classes to teach and some pastoral involvement in the parish where I live, it may not be possible for me to be at my office all the time. Students are welcome to contact me either by telephone or by e-mail to set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

**Course Description**

Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior has practical implications for the way believers construe the world and organize their lives. What these implications are for Christian life in some specific areas of life and the tensions which arise from the attempt of the Christian community to remain faithful to the teachings of the Lord Jesus while trying to live a fully human life – this is at the core of our course.

Therefore, in this course, we will (a) study the ethical stance of the Christian (Catholic) community on a number of issues and the pastoral issues arising from the position of this community on these issues; (b) explore the ways the pastoral worker can help to effectively translate Church teaching and moral theology in these areas; (3) Look at the moral demands that arise from the exercise of any pastoral ministry in the Church today.

Our course is divided into three main sections. The first section will look at questions pertaining to human sexuality and Christian marriage. Section two focuses on ethical issues of life and death while section three will look at the ethics of ministry and pastoral care.

## Course Requirements

1. Attendance at class is obligatory
2. Students are expected to study the assigned texts and be prepared to discuss them critically. This course aims to create an atmosphere conducive to rigorous intellectual exploration, mutual and attentive listening, thoughtful dialogue, careful analysis, and serious critique. Since the format of the course discussion as well as lectures by the instructor, informed discussion is essential. *In fact, the careful and thoughtful preparation of scheduled assignments cannot be overemphasized. Please note that you may be called upon by name and are expected to respond to questions or to contribute to class discussions, to the best of your ability.*

## Evaluation

There are two (2) *different* kinds of written assignment for this course – “theological exercises” and a final essay in which you explore in some detail a particular ethical issue arising from our work in the course and which seems of particular theological and pastoral significance to you. Due dates and further instructions for these papers will be announced in class

### **Required Texts**

**Sexuality, Marriage and Family: Readings in the Catholic Tradition**, ed. Paulinus Ikechukwu Odozor, C.S.Sp ( Notre Dame : University of Notre Dame Press, 2001)

**Ethics in Pastoral Ministry** by Richard M. Gula. S.S ( New York/Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1996)

**Catholic Ethicists on HIV/AIDS Prevention**, edited by James F. Keenan, S.J., with Jon D. Fuller, S.J., Lisa Sowle Cahill and Kevin Kelly (New York/London, 2001)

**Pedophiles and Priests: Anatomy of a Contemporary Crisis** by Philip Jenkins ( Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1996)

**All other materials will be put on electronic reserve at the Hesburgh Library**

## **The Course in Detail**

### **Section One**

#### **Human Sexuality, Christian Marriage and Family**

**Monday, July 7, 2008**

##### **A. Human Sexuality**

Course organization; Course overview.

Francis Mugavero, "Sexuality – God's Gift," in Odozor, **Sexuality, Marriage and Family**(Henceforth referred to as SMF), pp.76-81

James B. Nelson, "Sexual Salvation: Grace and the Resurrection of the Body," SMF, pp.14-21 (Lecture and Discussion)

**Tuesday, July 8, 2008**

\*\*Eugene LaVerdiere, "The Witness of the New Testament," SMF, pp.1-13

Andre Guindon, "A Theory of Sexual ethics for Concerned Christians," in **The Sexual Creators: An Ethics proposal for Concerned Christians**( Lahman: University of America Press, 1986), pp.21-41 (Lecture and discussion)

##### **B. The Nature of Christian Marriage and Family**

**Wednesday July 9, 2008**

Vatican II, "the Dignity of Christian Marriage," SMF, pp. 263-268

"The Sacrament of Marriage" in **The Catechism of the Catholic Church**, nos 1601-1666 (Lecture and discussion)

**Thursday, July 10, 2008**

**First Student-led Seminar:** Pope John Paul II, "Familiaris Consortio," SMF, pp. 269-310

##### **Divorce, Remarriage and The Sacraments**

**Friday, July 11, , 2008**

Eduord Hamel, "The Indissolubility of Completed Marriage: Theological, Historical, and Pastoral Reflections," in SMF, pp.369-384 (Lecture and Discussion)

Kenneth R. Himes and James Coriden, "Pastoral care of the Divorced and Remarried," SMF, pp.400-420

Richard A. McCormick, "Divorce, Remarriage and the Sacraments," SMF, pp.385-399 (Lecture and Discussion)

## **D. Contraception**

**Monday 14 2008**

John T. Noonan, "The Doctrine and the Context," SMF, pp. 423-457 (Lecture and Discussion)

\*\*Pope Paul VI, "Humanae Vitae," SMF, pp.464-477 (Textual analyses, Cases, Discussion)

## **E. Homosexuality**

**Tuesday, July 15, 2008**

Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Letter to the Bishops on the Pastoral care of Homosexual Persons," in **The Vatican and Homosexuality**, ed by Jeanine Grammick and Pat Furey (New York: Crossroad, 1988), pp1-10

Archbishop Quinn, "Toward An Understanding of the letter "On the pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons," **The Vatican and Homosexuality**, pp. 13-19 (Textual Analysis, Lecture, Discussion).

## **II**

### **Ethical Problems of Life and Death**

#### **A. Introduction: Faith, Theology and Bioethics**

**Wednesday, July 16, 2008**

Richard A. McCormick, "Theology and Bioethics," in **On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics**, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, eds. Stephen E. Lammers and Allen Verhey (Grand Rapids, MI/Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998), 63-71.

Stanley Hauerwas, "Salvation and Health: Why medicine needs the Church" in Lammers and Verhey, eds., **On Moral Medicine**, pp.72-82.

Benedict Ashley and Kevin O'Rourke, "Pastoral Care and Ethical Decisions," in **Health Care Ethics: A Theological Analysis**, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1997), pp.453-462.

#### **B. Reproductive Technologies**

The term "reproductive technologies" is here understood to include all procedures that replace in part or totally the natural (by sexual intercourse) process of conception and of **in vitro** gestation. Practically, this would include (1) artificial insemination (homologous, when the sperm used in the procedure is from the husband

(AIH) and heterologous, when the insemination is with donated semen [AID] ); (2) in vitro fertilization (with sperm of husband or donor, with ovum of wife or donor) with subsequent implantation (in wife or host womb) or without it (artificial placenta ) and (3) Cloning.

Whereas in contraception we dealt with **the morality of sexual expression and procreation through effective contraception**, in the case of these reproductive technologies we are dealing with **the moral issues involved in the achievement of procreation apart from sexual expression**.

#### **Thursday July 17 2008: Artificial Insemination, IVF, ET, Surrogacy**

Eileen P. Flynn, "Assisted reproduction," in her **Issues in Medical Ethics** (Kansas, MO: Sheed and Ward, 1997), pp.54-78

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origin and On the Dignity of Procreation" (1987)

#### **C. Ethics At The End of Life**

##### **Friday: July 18, 2008: Euthanasia**

##### **The Mystery of Human Suffering**

Edward Schillebeeckx, "God Does not want mankind to suffer," in his **Christ: The Experience of Jesus as Lord** (New York: The Seabury Press, 1980), p724-730

Benedict M. Ashley and Kevin O'Rourke, "Suffering and Death," in **Health Care Ethics, 4<sup>th</sup> edition: A Theological Analysis**, pp. 395-411

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Euthanasia" in Lammers and Verhey, **On Moral Medicine**, pp.650-655

##### **Monday, July 21 :To Treat or let Die**

Thomas A. Shannon and James Walter, " The PVS Patient and Forgoing Medical Nutrition and Hydration," in **Bioethics: Basic Writings on the key Ethical Questions that surround the major, modern biological possibilities and problems**, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. Thomas A. Shannon (Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1993), pp. 173-198

Richard A. McCormick, "To Save Or Let Die," in **Quality of Life: The New Medical Dilemma**, eds. James J. Walter and Thomas A. Shannon (Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1990), pp.26-34.

(Lecture, Cases, Discussion)

## **D. Abortion**

**Tuesday July 22, 2008**

\*\*United States Supreme Court, “Roe v. Wade: Majority Opinion and Dissent,” in **Contemporary Issues in Bioethics**, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, eds. Tom L. Beauchamp and LeRoy Walters ( Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1999), pp. 236-246

\*\*Sidney Callahan. “Abortion and the Sexual Agenda: A Case for Pro-Life Feminism,” in Lammers and Verhey, **On Moral Medicine**, pp. 623-632

## **E. AIDS: The Ethical and pastoral dimensions**

**Wednesday, July 23, 2008:** Lisa Sowle Cahill, “AIDS, Justice, and the Common Good,” in **Catholic Ethicists on HIV/AIDS**, p.282-293.

Paulinus Ikechukwu Odozor, “Casuistry and AIDS: A Reflection on the Catholic Tradition,” in **Catholic Ethicists on AIDS/HIV** , pp.294-302 (Lecture, Cases, Discussion)

## **Section IV The Ethics of Ministry and Pastoral Care**

**Thursday 24, 2008,**

**Student led discussion on ministerial sexual abuse in the American Catholic Church: Text:** Philip Jenkins: **Pedophile and Priests: Anatomy of a Contemporary Crisis** (Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).

**Student-led discussion: Friday, July 25: Professional Ethics in Pastoral Ministry** Richard Gula, **Ethics in Pastoral Ministry** ( New York/Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1996), pp.9-64.