

MORALITY

Old Testament

Image and Likeness

Ten Commandments

New Testament

Beatitudes

Greco-Roman Tradition

Middle Ages

POPE PIUS XIII: 1957

1) Direct termination of life is always contrary to Christian Faith and Practice.

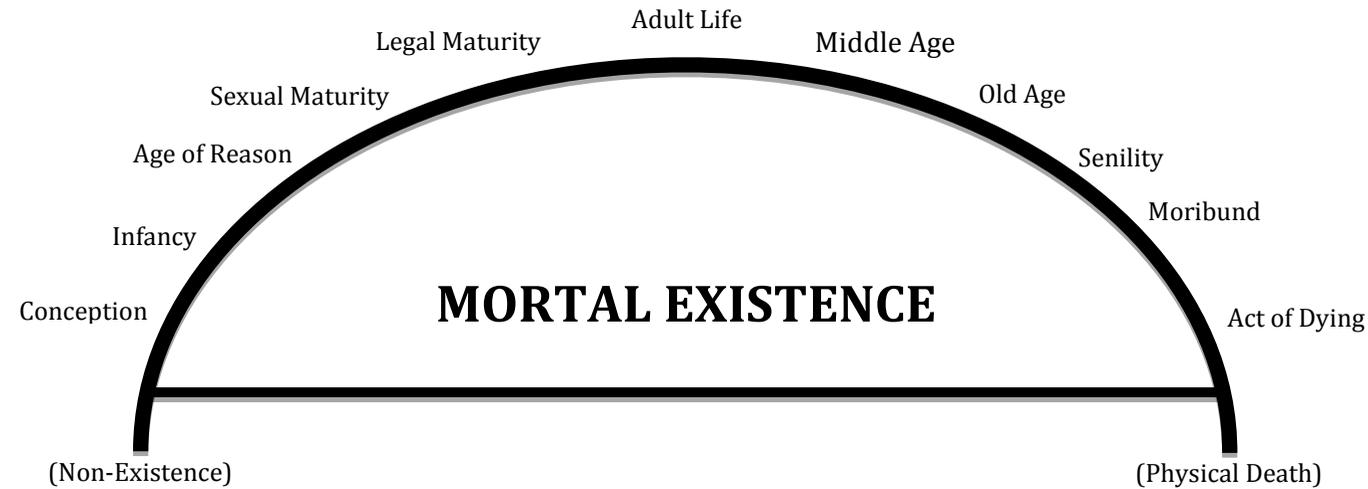
2) Ordinary means are required to preserve one's health. Extraordinary means are not required.

3) No one is obliged to use a medical procedure if it imposes a grave burden.

4) Analgesics (pain killers) may be applied to relieve pain even if they hasten death as an indirect effect.

5) Spiritual and physical care should be provided for the dying person.

CONTINUUM OF LIFE



JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

- 1) **Life is a continuum** – many steps and stages but all having the right to be called **Human** Life. One is no more or less a human at any stage. Biological strength may wax and wane, but humanity remains constant.
- 2) Human Life is a gift and mystery. It begins at conception (union of two cells to form one being) and ends with the dissolution of death (the cessation of all vital function in those cells). God is Creator and parents are Pro-Creators.
- 3) Human Life is mortal. Therefore, physical death is part of the human cycle of life. We are all called beyond physical life to everlasting life.
- 4) All Human Life is good in itself, but this good is subordinated to a higher good; namely, Eternal Life with God. Physical death is the portal to eternal life.
- 5) Self-Destruction, either directly through suicide or indirectly through addiction and neglect of health, is evil; that is, a denial of the gift of life and refusal to accept God as Creator.

STATE OF THE QUESTION IN U.S. SOCIETY AND LAW

- 1) The right of Self-Determination in medical matters is well established in American law and practice. No one is forced to undergo medical treatment against one's will.
- 2) Western tradition and many State Codes consider suicide contrary to the good of the State and thereby forbid its practice by statute and penalty.
- 3) Many Americans fear prolonged and unrelieved pain at the end of their life, as well as a prolonged act of dying by unnecessary and ineffective medical technology.

LAW AND SOCIETY

Roman Law

English Common Law

Declaration of Independence

State Statutes

Karen Ann Quinlan NJ 1976
In re Eichner 1980 Fox Case
Cruzan Case Mo. 1990
Casey
Brophy

Quill vs. Vacco NYS

Companion in Dying vs. State of Wash.

Supreme Court (to be decided)

MEDICINE

Hippocratic Oath

Non Nocere

Technological Revolution

From Care to Cure

Non-Acceptance of Death

Inadequate Pain Therapy