

Respecting Life

The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition

Chapter 28



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Catholic Faith Handbook

Human Life is Sacred

- We are made in the image of God.
- Even lives that we think are “imperfect” or “worthless” are precious to God.
- Our God-given dignity is the foundation for loving God, other people, and ourselves.



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Legitimate Defense

- We have a right to stop someone from harming us or others.
- If possible, we must avoid taking someone's life, even in defense of self or others.

Life Issues and the Fifth Commandment:

Capital Punishment

- The death penalty is only acceptable when there is no other way to protect society (human life) from the offender.
- Even the worst sin does not take away a person's God-given dignity.



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Life Issues and the Fifth Commandment:

War

- Nations have the same right to self-defense as individuals.
- Principles of just war must be met in order for a war to be moral.
- Modern weapons lead people to question whether a just war is possible today.



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Life Issues and the Fifth Commandment:

Abortion

- Abortion takes the life of a child and physically and psychologically harms a mother.
- Everyone—women and men—has a responsibility to support pregnant women and protect unborn children.



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Life Issues and the Fifth Commandment:

Euthanasia

- Euthanasia supporters claim to be offering a death with dignity, but the taking of a human life is still murder.
- Dying with dignity is possible in other ways, including hospice programs and pain-relieving medicine.



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Life Issues and the Fifth Commandment:

Suicide

- Suicide is the final rejection of the love of self, love of God, and love of neighbor.
- We pray for those who have committed suicide and entrust them to God's love and mercy.



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Life Issues and the Fifth Commandment:

Scandal

- Scandal is an attitude or behavior that leads another person to sin, harming her or his spiritual life.
- These attitudes or behaviors are especially wrong when committed by those who are supposed to educate or mentor others.

Life Issues and the Fifth Commandment:

Respect for Health

- We should take care of our bodies and minds, which are wonderfully and carefully made.
- A healthy diet, exercise, and getting enough sleep are just the start of respecting our own health and encouraging others to do the same.



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