

DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM

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From the Compendium to the Catechism paragraphs: 473-481

HOW DOES ONE AVOID SCANDAL

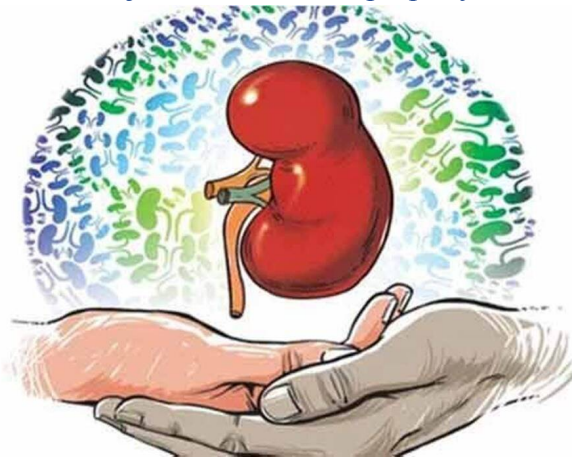
Scandal, which consists in inducing others to do evil, is avoided when we respect the soul and body of the person. Anyone who deliberately leads others to commit serious sin himself or herself commits a grave offence.

WHAT DUTY DO WE HAVE TOWARD OUR BODY ?

We must take reasonable care of our own physical health and that of others but avoid the cult of the body and every kind of excess. Also to be avoided are the use of drugs which cause very serious damage to human health and life, as well as the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco and medicine.

WHEN ARE SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS ON HUMAN INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS MORALLY LEGITIMATE ?

They are morally legitimate when they are at the service of the integral good of the person and of society, without disproportionate risks to the life and physical and psychological integrity of the subjects who must be properly informed and consenting.



ARE THE TRANSPLANT AND DONATION OF ORGANS ALLOWED BEFORE AND AFTER DEATH ?

The transplant of organs is morally acceptable with the consent of the donor and without excessive risks to him or her. Before allowing the noble act of organ donation after death, one must verify that the donor is truly dead.

WHAT PRACTICES ARE CONTRARY TO RESPECT FOR THE BODILY INTEGRITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON ?

They are: kidnapping and hostage taking, terrorism, torture, violence, and direct sterilisation. Amputations and mutilations of a person are morally permissible only for strictly therapeutic medical reasons.

WHAT CARE MUST BE GIVEN TO THE DYING ?

The dying have a right to live the last moments of their earthly lives with dignity and, above all, to be sustained with prayer and the sacraments that prepare them to meet the living God.

HOW ARE THE BODIES OF THE DECEASED TO BE TREATED ?

The bodies of the departed must be treated with love and respect. Their cremation is permitted provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body.

WHAT DOES THE LORD ASK OF EVERY PERSON IN REGARD TO PEACE ?

The Lord proclaimed “Blessed are the peacemakers “ (Matthew 5:9). He called for peace of heart and denounced the immorality of anger which is a desire for revenge for some evil suffered. He also denounced hatred which leads one to wish evil on one’s neighbour. These attitudes, if voluntary and consented to in matters of great importance, are mortal sins against charity.

WHAT IS PEACE IN THIS WORLD ?

Peace in this world, which is required for the respect and development of human life, is not simply the absence of war or a balance of power between adversaries. It is “the tranquillity of order” (Saint Augustine), “the work of justice” (Isaiah 32:17) and the effect of charity. Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the peace of Christ.



It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk

