

Bioethics Midterm, 2024 (*optional for those who will submit a paper instead*)
Due electronically in MS-Word (.doc – **NOT .docx**) or pdf format
on or before Friday, March 22, 2024

To be returned **electronically via e-mail** (ldysinger@stjohnsem.edu) by Friday, March 22, 2024. In your answers, when you refer to primary texts (as I hope you will) DO NOT only cut and paste the text into your answer. Include with appropriate references YOUR OWN SUMMARY of what the relevant text says, just as you would in any real pastoral situation. Please answer all parts of both questions. There is no minimum or maximum number of pages.

Please remember that whenever your answers include anything other than your own words or ideas, you must place the cited text in quotation marks and include appropriate references. When citing text from the Internet always include in your reference the original author and source of the material you cited, together with the Webpage HTTP reference. For example:

St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Ia, 103.4. <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1103.htm>
And **not** merely: <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1103.htm>

- 1) You are the pastor of a large parish in your diocese. The Supreme Court is preparing to rule on whether the law can require health-care workers to participate in assisted suicide. While you are sipping coffee after the 10:00 am mass on Sunday a woman whom you dimly recognize as a professor at a local university comes up to you and demands: “Father, people are struggling with the question whether they are always obliged to accept medical treatment. When has the Catholic Church ever contributed anything helpful on this question?”

You perceive that she is intelligent and competent in history. How do you respond to her? What do you recommend she read? [please summarize what she will find in any reading you recommend]

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- 2) It is two weeks later. The same parishoner mentioned above has read what you recommended. She approaches you and says: “Father, Senator Nancy Pelosi has made it clear that the Church’s ban on abortion is a modern fixation. She has pointed out that in the middle ages abortion was not considered to be a sin. Isn’t that right?”

How do you respond to her? What do you recommend she read? [please summarize what she will find in any reading you recommend]