

- ◆ Adultery, a sexual relationship with someone other than one's spouse (or an unmarried person with a married person), violates the fidelity and loyalty required of marriage. It is a serious offense.
- ◆ On the authority of Jesus, no couple may divorce, that is, dissolve a true marriage.
- ◆ Other offenses against marriage are polygamy (having more than one spouse), incest, sexual abuse, free unions, and trial marriages.
- ◆ Any judgment about birth control must be made in light of the unitive and procreative ends of marriage. Each act of intercourse must be open to these two ends or the action is seriously contrary to God's will for sexual relations. Thus, contraception is wrong.
- ◆ For moral and just reasons, it is morally acceptable for a couple to use natural methods of family planning.
- ◆ Because having a child is a gift and not a right, it is gravely wrong to use immoral means to conceive a child. Test-tube babies, surrogate mothers, egg or sperm donation, and the like are disordered because they separate sexual love-making from the act of procreation.
- ◆ The virtue of chastity enables us to control our sexual desires and use them appropriately according to our situation in life. Abstinence is the positive choice not to engage in sexual intercourse outside of marriage.
- ◆ The virtues of purity and modesty help us combat "carnal concupiscence." Purity of heart helps us look at things from God's point of view and control lust, that is, the disordered craving for sexual pleasure sought for itself.
- ◆ The virtue of modesty protects the intimate center of the person. It refuses to unveil what common decency requires to remain hidden.
- ◆ Masturbation, the deliberate stimulation of the genitals to obtain solitary sexual pleasure, goes against God's intent for sexual activity to be relational. Habit, compulsion, or immaturity can lessen blameworthiness for this act, but we must make an effort, with God's help, to control our sexual urges.
- ◆ Fornication is sexual intercourse engaged in by unmarried persons. It is a serious misuse of the gift of sexuality because unconditional love is missing; the couple has not entered a totally committed, exclusive, faithful relationship.
- ◆ Pornography aims solely to arouse sexual passion. It disrespects and damages the dignity of everyone associated with it.
- ◆ Prostitution, engaging in sex for money, seriously debases and dehumanizes persons who sell their bodies by turning themselves into objects to use, not persons to be loved. It is a serious violation against both chastity and charity for those who pay for prostitution.
- ◆ Rape, forcing someone to have sex, is an intrinsically evil act that violently assaults human dignity.
- ◆ Homosexual activity is a serious violation of God's intent for male-female bonding in a relationship open to life and love.
- ◆ No one chooses to have a homosexual orientation; therefore, someone is not a sinner for having such an orientation. It is sinful to display prejudice toward homosexual persons. They are our brothers and sisters, loved and redeemed by Christ.
- ◆ We grow in self-respect and respect for others in the area of sexuality by avoiding pornography, staying away from situations where our self-control is compromised, living lovingly for others, praying and acts of self-sacrifice, and celebrating Christ's forgiveness and love in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

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7. Read or summarize Case Study: Megan and Josh on p. 230. Review the "STOP Sign" method of moral decision-making in Chapter 2. Assign the students to analyze the case in a written report. Have them write their answers to the questions included with each step in "Analyze This Case" on p. 231. When finished, have them meet in small groups to discuss their answers.

## RESOURCES

### *Internet Resources*

#### **Catholic Educator's Resource: Current Issues: Sexuality**

[www.catholiceducation.org/directory/Current\\_Issues/Sexuality](http://www.catholiceducation.org/directory/Current_Issues/Sexuality)

#### **Love Is For Life: Pastoral Letter of the Irish Bishops.**

Penned in 1986, this outstanding letter covers many aspects of sexual morality.

[www.ewtn.com/library/BISHOPS/LOVELIFE.HTM](http://www.ewtn.com/library/BISHOPS/LOVELIFE.HTM)

#### **Pope Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae***

[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/paul\\_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html)