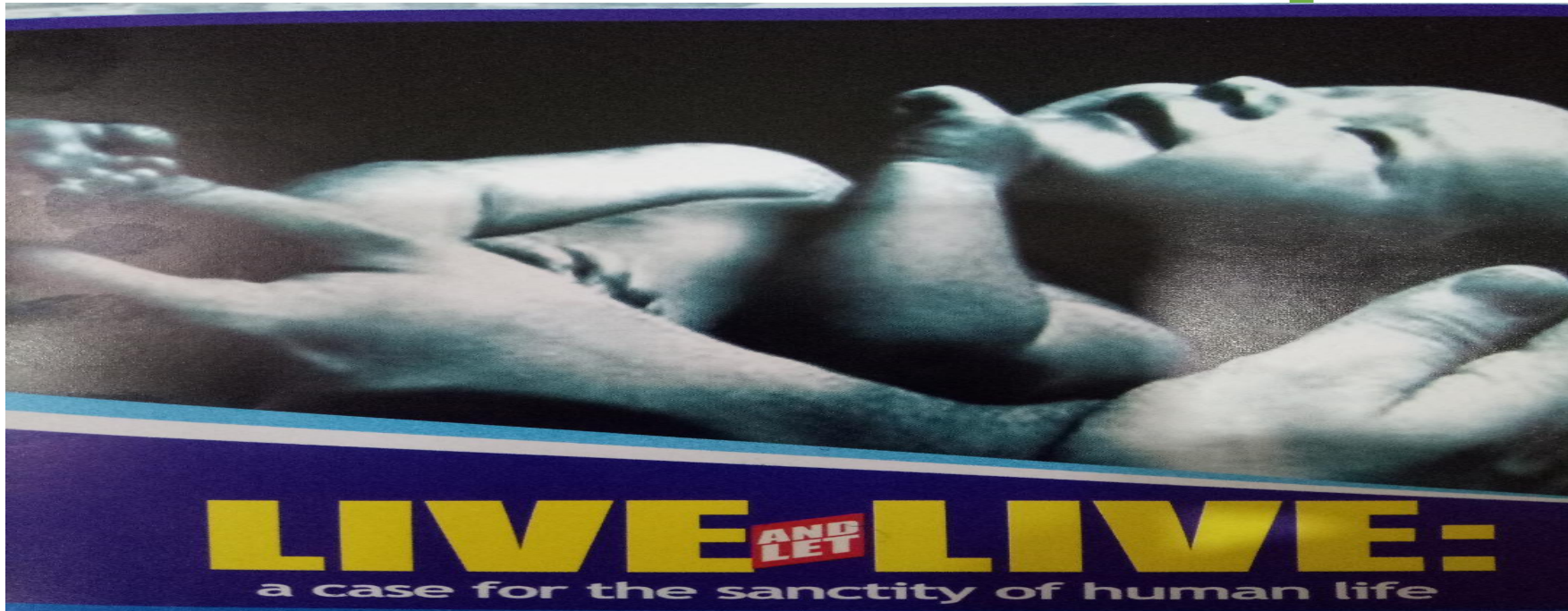


# **CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION ASOKORO**

**Catechetical Week 2018**

**Practices That Contradict the Gospel Values**



**Rev. Fr. John-Mary Atep**

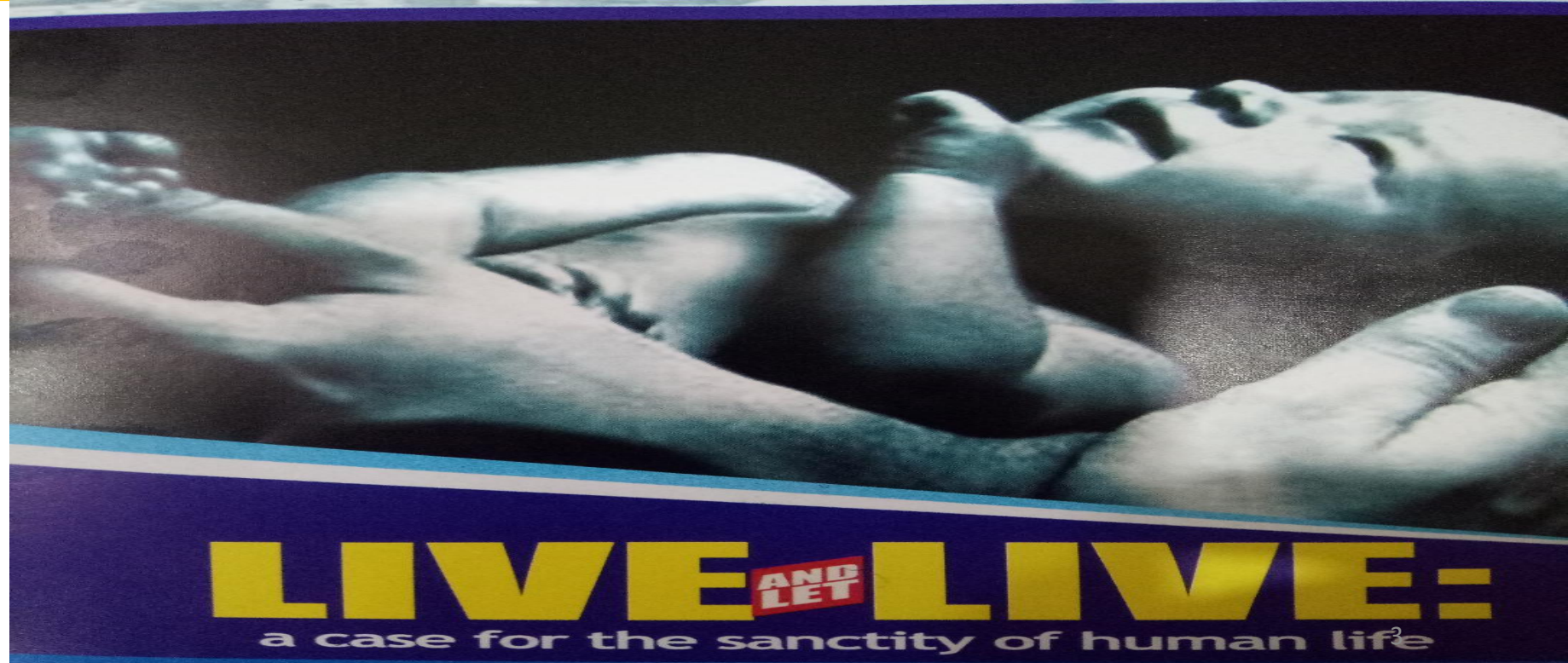
# Introduction

- Gospel Values form the basis of Christianity.
- Before the 20th century they were primarily applied to individual and interpersonal relationships.
- Beginning with the encyclicals of Pope Leo XIII at the end of the 19th century, and culminating with the documents of the Second Vatican Council in 1962, Gospel Values provided the foundation for Catholic Social Teaching by extending them beyond personal relationships to the **systems, structures and social institutions** of modern life.



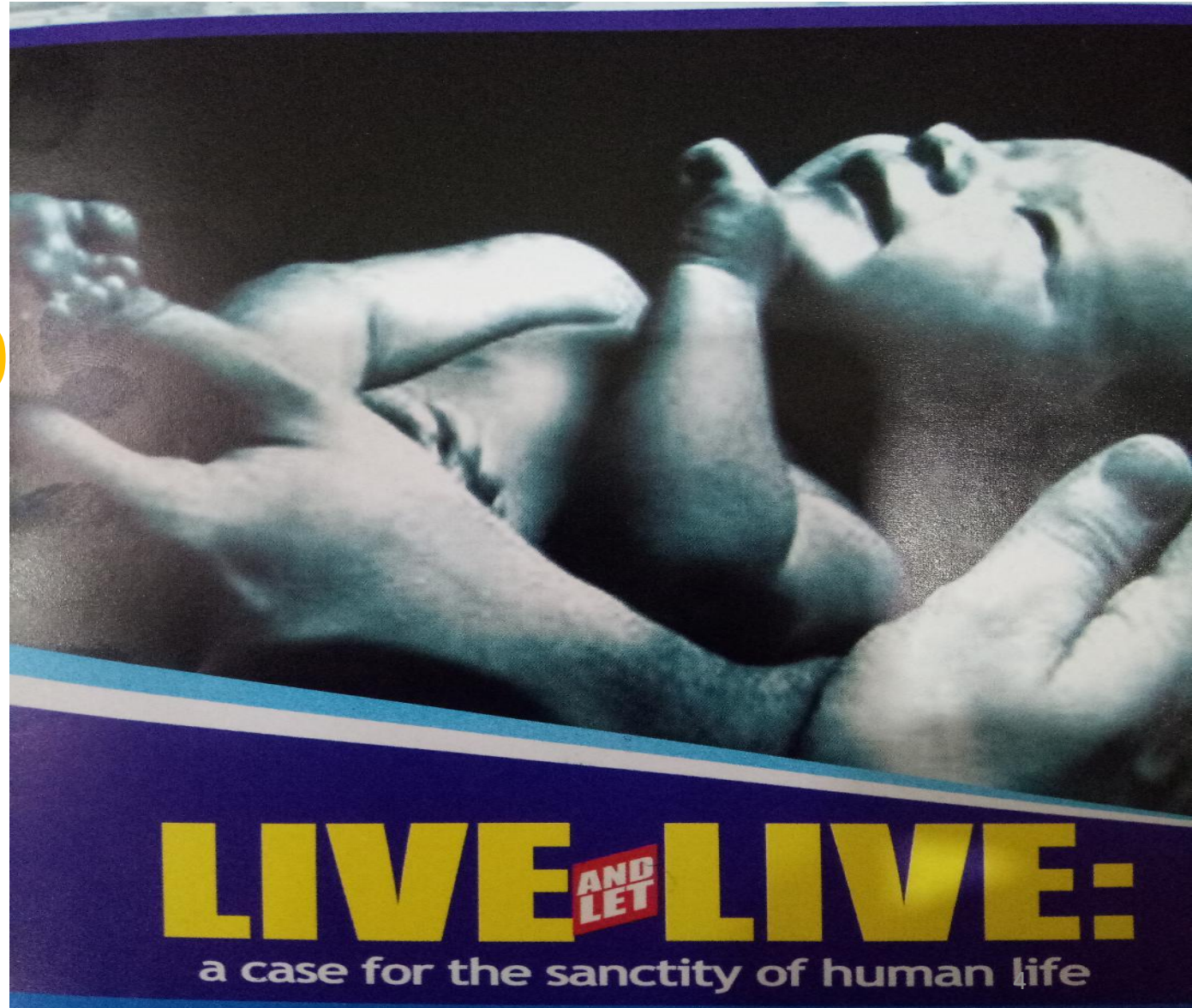
# The Gospel Values

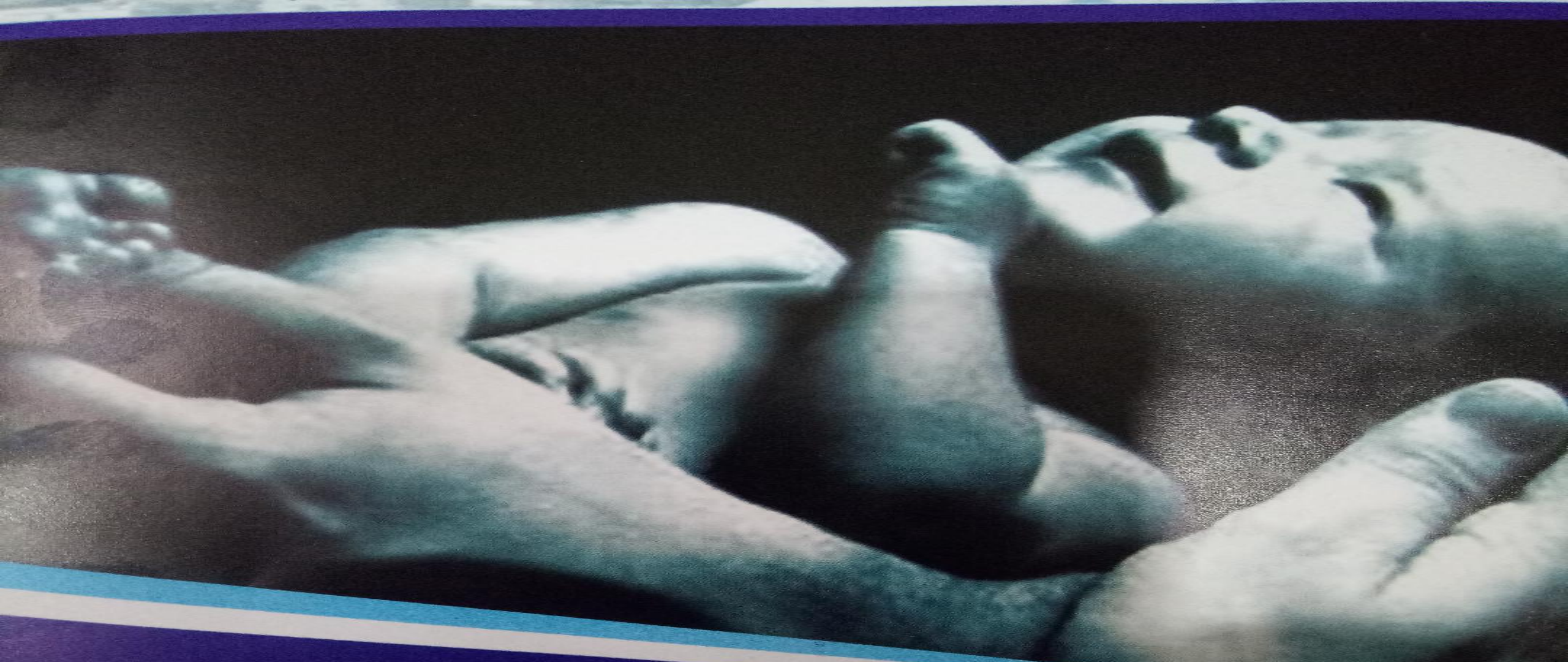
- All of the Gospel Values *begin with and derive from Jesus' Law of Love:*
- Respect for the Life and Dignity of Each Individual
- Trust in God
- Honesty
- Compassion
- Forgiveness



# The Gospel Values

- Mercy
- Community
- Servant Leadership
- Equality
- Simplicity
- Justice
- Peace





# LIVE AND LET LIVE:

a case for the sanctity of human life

# **Respect for the Life and Dignity of Each Individual**

- Respect for human life and dignity of each individual are the foundation of all the principles of the Church's social teaching.**
- It is respecting the life and dignity of myself and each person in thought, word and action.**
- "Give honour to all, love the community, fear God, honour the king" (1 Peter 2:17).**

# Respect for the Life and Dignity of Each Individual

- **Examples of threats against life and human dignity**
- **Cain** "rose up against his brother Abel and killed him" (Gen. 4:8)
- **Pharaoh** viewing as a threat the increasing numbers of the children of Israel, ordered that every new-born male of the Hebrew women should be put to death (Exo. 1:22)

# Respect for the Life and Dignity of Each Individual

- **Herod**, out of fear for his throne, “sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem” (Matt. 2:16)
- **The apocalyptic conflict** in which “the dragon stood before the woman ...that he might devour her child when she brought it forth.” Human life, especially when weak and defenseless, has always been threatened by the forces of evil (Rev. 12:4).



# **Respect for the Life and Dignity of Each Individual**

- **Although the blood of Abel and of all innocent victims of violence cries out to God, the precious blood of Christ, the sign of his self-gift (Jn. 13:1), “speaks more eloquently” (Heb. 12:24).**
- **It reveals the value of human life in the eyes of God, who for the sake of life gave his only Son, “that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (Jn. 3:16).**

# **Respect for the Life and Dignity of Each Individual**

- **Human life is a gift — it ends in eternal life**
- **Responsibility for the gift of life**
- **The commandment “You shall not kill,” is at the heart of the Ten Commandments given at Sinai (cf. Ex. 34:28)**

# **Respect for the Life and Dignity of Each Individual**

- In the New Testament, Jesus not only repeated this commandment as the first to be kept in order to enter into life (cf. Mt. 19:16-18), but also showed its positive implications (cf. Mt. 5:21ff), which involve the heart and which extend to everyone, to the point of loving even one's enemies (cf. Mt. 5:44)**

# **Practices that contradict the Gospel Value of life**

- Abortion**
- Euthanasia**
- Cloning, embryonic stem cell research**
- Death penalty**
- Addictions and chemical dependency**
- Collateral damage**

# Abortion

- “Abortion is an operation carried out to remove the growing foetus from its Mother’s womb so that it can be destroyed.”
- **Points against abortion**
- The unborn is unique and is a separate human being
- There is nothing like unwanted pregnancy
- All lives are precious

# Abortion horrible images

**IF YOU CANNOT  
LOOK AT IT...**



**YOU SHOULDN'T  
CONDONE IT.**

**ABOLISHHUMANABORTION.COM**

PH















**HYPER PIXELS**  
M E D I A

# Euthanasia

- An “act or practice of killing or permitting the death of hopelessly sick or injured individuals in a relatively painless way for reasons of mercy.”
- Abortion and euthanasia are un-natural killing of persons, old, young and unborn.
- They promote the culture of death as against the culture of life that is our destiny.

# Euthanasia

- All life is God-given
- Birth and death are part of the life processes which God has created, so we should respect them
- Therefore no human being has the authority to take the life of any innocent person, even if that person wants to die.
- There is no right to die but the right to life/live!

# Cloning, Embryonic stem cell research

- The order of life is **CELLS – TISSUES – ORGANS – SYSTEMS.**
- A lot of experiments are going on today with stem cell research. Through these researches, a lot of cells are destroyed and life begin at conception through the combination of cells.
- This must be discouraged as it is against the culture of life, and the dignity of the human person

# **Addictions and chemical dependency**

- **Addiction is a term derived from the Latin word *addicere*, meaning to have no voice or to surrender oneself to a master.**
- **The rule is moderation.**
- **Many people are addicted to substances and behaviours that alter the value of life and dignity of the human person.**

# Collateral damage

- The life and dignity of the human person is also affected or destroyed through an offensive language like collateral damage. It is “injury inflicted on something other than an intended target *specifically* : civilian casualties of a military operation.”
- This is also against the gospel value of life, the culture of life and the dignity of the human person
- It cheapens life



**APPRECIATION!**  
**THANK YOU**  
**FOR**  
**LISTENING**