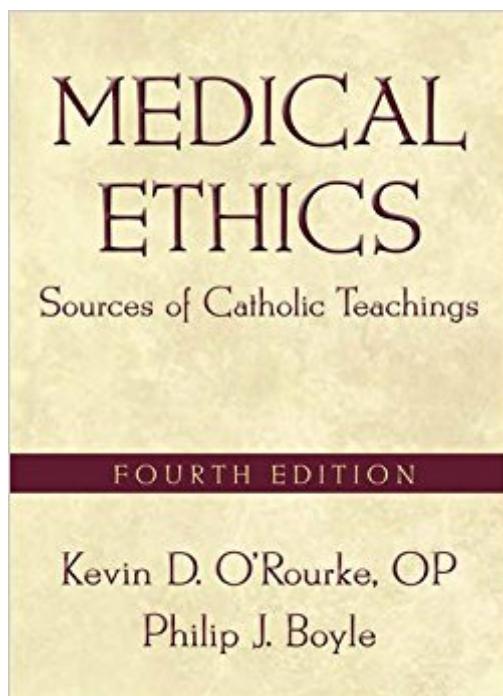


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# Medical Ethics: Sources Of Catholic Teachings



## Synopsis

In a single convenient resource, this revised and updated edition of a classic text organizes and presents clearly the documents of the Catholic Church pertaining to medical ethics. Introductory chapters provide the context for interpreting the Church's teachings and theological values, guiding the reader in how to apply the teachings to particular ethical dilemmas and helping the reader to understand the role of conscience within the Catholic tradition. The teaching of the Church in regard to health care ethics is pertinent not only for health care professionals and students, but for all who are concerned about the common good of society. Medical Ethics examines specific teachings of the Church on over seventy issues in clinical and research ethics, including abortion, AIDS, artificial insemination, assisted suicide, cloning, contraception, euthanasia, gene therapy, health care reform, organ donation and transplantation, organizational ethics, stem cells, surrogate motherhood, and withholding and withdrawing life support. O'Rourke and Boyle bring this fourth edition up to the present day by incorporating recent papal documents regarding the social aspects of health care, assent to Church teaching, and the 2008 papal instruction *Dignitas personae*, an extremely influential document that illuminates such controversial dilemmas as prenatal adoption, frozen embryos, and genetic diagnosis.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This fine book is primarily about the sources, both theological and moral, or Catholic moral teachings. The reader will find a clear and practical guide that informs faithful and series moral

thinking about important medical choices. ... This new edition of a now classic book remains a trusted resource and proven roadmap to guide us along an important and challenging moral path."•Theological Studies" A clear and practical guide that informs faithful and serious moral thinking about important medical choicesa trusted resource and proven roadmap to guide us along an important and challenging moral path."•Theological Studies

"This updated edition of O'Rourke and Boyle's highly regarded compendium of Roman Catholic teachings and documents on medical ethics is an indispensable resource for health professionals in their daily work and for scholars and students wishing to stay abreast of the full range of professional discourse in bioethics."•Edmund D. Pellegrino, MD, professor emeritus of medicine and medical ethics, Georgetown University"This fourth edition is an invaluable volume. It brings together two seasoned theologians/ethicists, seasoned both in their intellectual preparation and experience in the clinical settings. They give us the Church's teaching in the Church's own words and an explanation of what it means in the clinical realities of today. Many clinicians, board members, and sponsors will benefit from this wonderful work."•Carol Keehan, DC, president and chief executive officer, Catholic Health Association"If in your research or teaching, you've ever asked, 'Where does that teaching come from?' this book will provide the answer. Like its predecessors, the fourth edition provides direct references with ample textual citations from a multitude of official Church documents ranging from papal encyclicals to the ERDs to statements by national bishops' conferences. The expansion of introductory sections on values, normative concepts and conscience in Church teaching as well as the integration of documents that relate to organizational ethics are both valuable additions. This text is an indispensable resource for ethicists, teachers of health care ethics, and health care professionals. For graduate students it provides ready access to source documents and context that internet searches cannot provide. In fact, it is a great find for anyone who wants a deeper understanding of the reasoning behind the Church's moral tradition on health care."•Charles Bouchard, OP, Ascension Health

This book is a very good and helpful resource, particularly for those professionals involved in the thorny issues of Catholic healthcare ethics. Nonetheless, the Kindle edition has several problems, two of primary importance. First, the footnotes are not hyperlinked. The authors have carefully and frequently footnoted this edition. Yet to see the citation, the reader has to bookmark the footnote section in the Kindle, and then page through perhaps several screens to identify the specific citation. Secondly, the Kindle edition only offers location numbers or positions and not actual page numbers.

There's no way to correspond the Kindle page to an actual page in the physical book. While these features may seem minuscule, they are crucially important for a researcher. This e-book is worthless for someone who wants to cite something from this book, primarily because there are no page numbers. I submitted these questions and concerns to the publisher several weeks in advance of this review. Unfortunately, they did not reply. As I acknowledged to the publisher, they have another book from 2006 that I also purchased as an e-book for Kindle, that has these very features of linked footnotes and page numbers. Why this one, published in 2011 cannot accommodate that technology remains unanswered. I'm happy to change my rating if updates can be made.

Excellent book explains the Scriptural and Catholic Traditional teachings of the Church. The basis for Catholic bioethics is grounded in natural law and eternal law, not arbitrary decisions made by man. The case histories presented and stance of the Catholic Church are well documented and comprehensive; and, the reasoning behind the Church teaching in each case is clear and easily understood.

Outstanding book, easy to read , extremely useful for Bioethics course that I took.

this was a required textbook for my pharmacy ethics class but i pretty much only used it as a reference. it's a little dense at times so i tended to just flip through until i found what i needed.

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