

Contents

Introduction.....	7
 Part 1: Bioethics from a Roman Catholic perspective	
1. What is ethics?	11
2. Some key terms	12
3. The human person	18
4. Sources of Roman Catholic ethics:	
Revelation and natural law	21
5. Traditional moral theology: .	
Objective dimensions	31
6. Traditional moral theology:	
Subjective dimensions	35
7. Conscience	37
8. Conversion	40

Part 2: Reproductive technologies

1. The human person: Church teaching.....	45
2. Personhood:	
Theological and legal dimensions.....	46
3. The morality of in vitro fertilization.....	48
4. Ethical concerns arising from in vitro fertilization.....	51
5. Stem cells: Embryonic and adult.....	58
6. Stem cell experimentation and morality	63
7. The principle of double effect.....	65
8. Co-operation in evil	67

Part 3: End-of-life issues

1. The dignity of the dying	71
2. Patients' rights	76
3. Withdrawal of treatment.....	77

Part 4: Catholic teaching on living life until the end

1. Definitions	88
2. The Dutch experience	90
3. Suffering and palliative care	93
4. The Christian approach to death.....	95
Appendix: Advance directives for health care ...	97
Notes	101