Twenty Questions on Contemporary Magisterial Catholic Moral Teaching

Circle or Underline True or False for each of these objective questions

1) The Ethical and Religious Directives of the USCCB for Catholic hospitals states that no medical procedure that results in the foreseen termination of fetal life is ever permitted under any circumstances. True or False

2) The Catholic Church teaches that legislation that would result in the involuntary redistribution of wealth is an affront against the notion of legitimate private property and therefore should not be supported. True or False

3) In its most recent document on Catholics and the political life (2007 Faithful Citizenship) the USCCB teaches that a Catholic could never in good conscience vote for or otherwise support a politician who did not actively oppose the legality of abortions. True or False

4) The Vatican has condemned the theological proposition that in determining the amount of religious respect owed to officially promulgated magisterial teaching an individual should come to this decision based on a composite analysis of the character of the teaching itself, the manner in which it is being promulgated, and the frequency with which it is being promoted. True or False

5) The Magisterium teaches that no one under any circumstances may ever do anything, either by direct action (commission) or by failure to act (omission) that would aid or cooperate in the commission of a moral evil by a third party. True or False

6) The Magisterium teaches that when there is a conflict between a person’s individual conscience and official magisterial teaching on a certain issue a faithful Catholic has no choice but to follow the Church’s magisterial teaching in this matter. True or False

7) Pope Paul VI’s 1968 Encyclical on the Regulation of Births, Humanae vitae, teaches that deliberate artificial contraception is a grave moral evil and that Catholic who practice such sinful artificial contraception should refrain from receiving Holy Communion until such time as they confess their sins and have been sacramentally absolved. True or False

8) The Magisterium teaches that murder can never be morally justified, even if it could be argued that the murder of a given individual would end some grave evil or bring about some considerable good. True or False

9) The Catholic Church teaches that one can tolerate a moral evil in one’s life in order to avoid a greater moral evil. True or False
10) The Magisterium teaches that no married woman of child-bearing age could ever use a drug for any reason if it was foreseen beforehand that such drug (such as the progesterone pill) would have a contraceptive effect (i.e., prevent conception of a child). True or False

11) The Magisterium teaches that artificial hydration and nutrition must be administered to all patients unless it is clear that the patient is likely to die within a relatively short period of time. True or False

12) The Magisterium teaches that a tubal ligation (‘tying a woman’s tubes) is never permitted, even if doctors indicate that a future pregnancy would be non-viable (i.e., the fetus could not come to live birth) or that the pregnancy would threaten the health or the life of the mother. True or False

13) The Magisterium teaches that if a Catholic couple were to use Natural Family Planning (NFP or the “Rhythm Method”) for the sole purpose of avoiding conception then this would be morally wrong. True or False

14) The Magisterium teaches that so-called “Extraordinary Means,” such experimental drugs or medical procedures, can be morally acceptable and therefore could be used under certain circumstances. True or False

15) The Magisterium teaches that the so-called “Living Will” or Advance Health Care Directive (AHCD) by which a person could opt not to allow for life-sustaining treatments such as artificial nutrition and hydration is not immoral and is allowed. True or False

16) The Magisterium teaches that in end-of-life cases the use of pain medication such as morphine can be used to treat pain even if it is foreseen that such medication will hasten the patient’s death or shorten the patient’s life. True or False

17) The Magisterium teaches that euthanasia, whether active or passive, is always morally wrong and never permitted. True or False

18) In Canon Law an individual bishop has the authority to suspend in his diocese pastoral letters, such as Faithful Citizenship, even if they have been passed by an overwhelming majority of the national bishops’ conference. True or False

19) The Magisterium teaches that the Pope and the College of Bishops enjoy a special gift of the Holy Spirit to teach in moral matters by virtue of their magisterial office which is not given to others, even if these others have studied these same moral matters. True or False

20) The Magisterium teaches that the condition of homosexual orientation is not a result of personal choice or bad moral living of vice, and that homosexuals should not be considered as sinning by having a same-sex orientation. True or False