

## ***Donum Vitae* Related Key Bibliography**

**Compiled by James T. Bretzke, S.J.**

**Professor of Moral Theology, Boston College School of Theology & Ministry**

### **Background Pre-*Donum Vitae* (1987) bibliographic material**

Janssens, Louis. "Artificial Insemination: Ethical Considerations." *Louvain Studies* 5 (1980): 3-29.

Janssens claims there are eight fundamental dimensions of the human person: (1) subject; (2) embodied subject; (3) part of the material world; (4) interrelational with other persons; (5) an interdependent social being; (6) historical; (7) equal but unique; (8) called to know and worship God. Classic article for the expression of the principle of totality in the personalist model. Janssens' personalist moral system is critiqued by Brian Johnstone, C.Ss.R. in the latter's "From Physicalism to Personalism," *Studia Moralia* 30 (1992): 71-96.

Kelly, Kevin T. *Life and Love: Towards a Christian Dialogue on Bioethics*. Collins Flame Book. Collins, 1987.

Examines the views of various churches on the subject, especially that of in-vitro fertilization. It is important to keep in mind that this book was written *before* the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued its 1987 Instruction *Donum vitae* which proscribed most reproductive technologies.

### **Some Key Bibliographic Material on *Donum Vitae* itself and/or its principal arguments**

#### *Magisterial Documents*

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith [CDF]. *Donum vitae* (Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation). 22 February 1987. AAS 80 (1988): 70-102; *Origins* 16 (19 March 1987): 697-; 699-711.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith [CDF]. *Dignitas personae* (Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions). 8 September 2008. Found on the Vatican web-site at the following URL:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20081208\\_dignitas-personae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20081208_dignitas-personae_en.html)

Though approved by Pope Benedict XVI on 20 June 2008 and back-dated to 8 September, this Instruction was not actually released until 8 December 2008. It is meant to update and confirm the previous Instruction *Donum vitae* issued twenty years earlier.

*Reflections from Theologians*

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. "The Embryo and the Fetus: New Moral Contexts." *Theological Studies* 54 (1993): 124-142.

Analyzes current uncertainty, arising from recent scientific and technological developments, about the "personhood" of life in the earliest stages of embryonic development, as well as to how human life should be treated in any possible prepersonal stages.

Cahill, a married Roman Catholic mother, 1993 President of the CTSA, and Professor of Theological Ethics at Boston College, studied under James Gustafson at the University of Chicago.

\_\_\_\_\_. "What is the Nature of the Unity of Sex, Love and Procreation? A Response to Elio Sgreccia." In *Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*, 137-148. Edited by Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

See paper by Msgr. Elio Sgreccia in the same volume.

Daniel, William, S.J. "Towards a Theology of Procreation: An Examination of the Vatican Instruction *Donum Vitae*." *Pacifica* 3 (1990): 61-86.

Critiques the CDF argument against IVF as poorly based; a better argument would be drawn on the treatment of the embryo or future child, rather than stressing, as the CDF document did, the failure to respect the dignity of the parents as procreators.

Harvey, John Collins. "Introduction to the Biological and Medical Aspects of In Vitro Fertilization." In *Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*, 45-51. Edited by Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

Harvey is a medical doctor and ethician.

Jans, Jan. "God or Man? Normative Theology in the Instruction *Donum Vitae*." *Louvain Studies* 17 (1992): 48-64.

Johnstone, Brian V., C.Ss.R. "The Instruction of «Donum Vitae» and Its Reception." *Studia Moralia* 26 (1988): 209-229.

Johnstone, an Australian, was professor of moral theology at the Alphonsianum in Rome for many years and currently teaches at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Lauritzen, Paul. *Cloning and the Future of Human Embryo Research*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Lauritzen is professor of religious ethics and director of the Program of Applied Ethics at John Carroll University in Cleveland.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Neither Person Nor Property: Embryo Research and the Status of the Early Embryo." *America* 184 (26 March 2001): 20-23.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Pursuing Parenthood: Ethical Issues in Assisted Reproduction*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993.

Reviewed by Maura Ryan in *Theological Studies* 55 (1994): 185-186.

McCormick, Richard A., S.J. "Who Or What Is the Preembryo?" Chapter 14 in Id. *Corrective Vision: Explorations in Moral Theology*, 176-188. Kansas City: Sheed: Ward, 1994.

Seminal article originally published in 1991 on ethical and theological issues involving ensoulment, personhood of the fetus, embryonic research, and the like.

Pellegrino, Edmund D., John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan, eds. *Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

Papers presented at a conference sponsored by Georgetown University on the CDF document, *Donum vitae (Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origins and on the Dignity of Procreation, Replies to Certain Questions of the Day)*. Papers are divided into Clinical and Technical Aspects, Moral-Theological Foundations, and Impact on Legislation and Public Policy. The English translation of *Donum vitae* is also included.

Rhonheimer, Martin, O.D. *Ethics of Procreation and the Defense of Human Life: Contraception, Artificial Fertilization, and Abortion*. Edited by William F. Murphy, Jr. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2010.

Martin Rhonheimer is professor of ethics and political philosophy at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce) the Opus Dei school in Rome.

Ryan, Maura A. *The Ethics and Economics of Assisted Reproduction: The Cost of Longing*. Moral Tradition Series. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2001.

Taking the experience of infertility as a crisis of the self, the spirit, and the body, she argues for the place of reproductive technologies within a temperate, affordable, sustainable, and just health care system.

Reviewed by Michael W. Gallagher in *Theological Studies* 63 (December 2002): 868-869.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Particular Sorrows, Common Challenges: Specialized Infertility Treatment and the Common Good." *The Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* (1994): 187-206.

Schüller, Bruno, S.J. "Paranesis and Moral Argument in *Donum Vitae*." In *Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*, 81-98. Edited by Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

Sgreccia, Msgr. (later Cardinal) Elio. "Moral Theology and Artificial Procreation in Light of *Donum Vitae*." In *Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*, 115-135. Edited by Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

See response by Lisa Cahill in the same volume.

Shannon, Thomas A. and Wolter, Allan B., O.F.M. "Reflections on the Moral Status of the Pre-Embryo." *Theological Studies* 51 (1990): 603-626.

Reviews the scientific literature to help determine when the early human embryo becomes an individual, a single entity, and analyzes the claim to personhood in the light of these findings.

Shannon, Thomas A., ed.. *Reproductive Technologies: A Reader*. Readings in Bioethics. Chicago: Rowman Littlefield, 2003.

Shannon was professor of religion and social ethics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.