1. Vocabulary Terms

EUTHANASIA: An act or omission which of itself or by intention causes death in order to eliminate suffering.

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE: The process of ending your life with a doctor’s help, by your own hand.

PERSONALISTIC NORM: The principle that maintains that a person is to be treated as a unique individual never

as a means to another’s end.

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PRINCIPLE OF DOUBLE EFFECT: A formula used to evaluate whether an act is permissible when a morally

good act causes an effect one is normally obliged to avoid.

2. Read the following

*But responsibility likewise falls on the legislators (*and judges- added by Miss Pilon*) who have promoted and approved abortion laws, and, to the extent that they have a say in the matter, on the administrators of the health-care centers where abortions are performed. In this sense abortion goes beyond the responsibility of individuals and beyond the harm done to them, and takes on a distinctly social dimension. It is a most serious*wound*inflicted on society and its culture by the very people who ought to be society’s promoters and defenders.*

Pope St. John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae (1995), no. 59.

As of 3:15pm on TUE, Feb 18, there have been 61.72 Million US abortions since the Roe *v* Wade decision in 1973. Discuss what that accountability may look like in God’s eyes.

3. Read the following

*We urge those Catholic officials who choose to depart from Church teaching on the inviolability of human life in their public life to consider the consequences for their own spiritual well-being, as well as the scandal they risk by leading others into serious sin. We call on them to reflect on the grave contradiction of assuming public roles and presenting themselves as credible Catholics when their actions on fundamental issues of human life are not in agreement with Church teaching. No public official, especially one claiming to be a faithful and serious Catholic, can responsibly advocate for or actively support direct attacks on innocent human life. [N]o appeal to policy, procedure, majority will or pluralism ever excuses a public official from defending life to the greatest extent possible.*

*As is true of leaders in all walks of life, no political leader can evade accountability for his or her exercise of power (*Evangelium Vitae*, 73-4). Those who justify their inaction on the grounds that abortion is the law of the land need to recognize that there is a higher law, the law of God. No human law can validly contradict the Commandment: "Thou shalt not kill."*

Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics (1998), no. 32

In your own words, what do the US Bishops have to say to those who are candidates for public office, as well as those who are already in public office?

Could you ever serve in a public office?