

Bioethics Midterm, 2026 (*optional for those who will submit a paper instead*)

Due electronically in MS-Word .doc or pdf format
on or before Friday, March 27, 2027

To be returned **electronically via e-mail**; NOT ON CANVAS! (ldysinger@stjohnsem.edu)
Friday, March 27, 2026. In your answers, when you refer to primary texts (as I hope you will) DO NOT only cut and paste the text into your answer. Include with appropriate references YOUR OWN SUMMARY of what the relevant text says, just as you would in any real pastoral situation. Please answer all parts of both questions. There is no minimum or maximum number of pages.

Please remember that whenever your answers include anything other than your own words or ideas, you must place the cited text in quotation marks and include appropriate references. When citing text from the Internet always include in your reference the original author and source of the material you cited, together with the Webpage HTTP reference. For example:

St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Ia, 103.4. <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1103.htm>
And **not** merely: <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/1103.htm>

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- 1) Having completed the Advance Directive form, please answer the following:
- a) Why did you choose the persons you designated as your agents?
 - b) Why do you believe they understand and will follow your wishes concerning health care?
 - c) Did you write any instructions in part 2 “Instructions for Health Care.” If so, what did you write and why? If not, why didn’t you write anything?

2) You are the pastor of a large parish in your diocese. One of the nurses in your parish requests permission to give a presentation at a Wednesday-evening Adult Education program on the subject of “advance directives”. She plans to describe the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care; and at the end of her presentation she plans to encourage participants to fill out an advance directive for themselves.

The Director of Religious Education hears about this and becomes highly agitated. She says that the Durable Power of Attorney encourages euthanasia by inviting people to consider withdrawing or withholding nutrition and hydration, “which the pope has forbidden”.

What do you say to the D.R.E., and what do you recommend she read?

3) While you are sipping coffee after the 10:00 am mass on Sunday, a woman whom you dimly recognize as a professor at a local university comes up to you and demands: says: “Father, Senator Nancy Pelosi has made it clear that the Church’s ban on abortion is a modern fixation. She has pointed out that in the middle ages abortion was not considered to be a sin. Isn’t that right?”

How do you respond to her? What do you recommend she read? [please summarize what she will find in any reading you recommend]