# CONTENTS

Foreword, *by John M. Haas* xv  
Translator’s Note, *by John A. Di Camillo* xix  
Preface xxiii  

## Part One  
General Bioethics  

### Chapter 1  
**Origins, Development, and Definitions of Bioethics**  
The Rise of Bioethics as a “New” Discipline,  
and the Origins of the Term  
Major Bioethics Centers in the World  
From Medical Ethics to Bioethics  
The Problem of a Definition  
Bioethics, Anthropology, and Interdisciplinary Study  
Summary  

### Chapter 2  
**Epistemological Justification,  
the Foundation of Bioethical Judgments,  
and Research Methodology in Bioethics**  
The Epistemological Justification of Bioethics  
The Relationship between Biomedical Science and Bioethics  
Bioethical Models and Questions of Meta-ethics  
*Bioethical models*  
*Cognitivism and noncognitivism: Hume’s law*  
*Descriptive ethics and the sociobiological model*  
The subjectivist or liberal-radical model  
The pragmatic-utilitarian model  
The contractualist model  
The phenomenological model  
Principlist ethics  
The personalist model  
Research Method in Bioethics  
Moral Law and Civil Law  
Secular Bioethics and Catholic Bioethics  
Summary
### Chapter 3
**Forms, Origins, and Meaning of Human Life**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life and Its Forms</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and Teleology</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For and Against Evolutionary Theory</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Against Reductionism</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Philosophical Problem within the Biological Problem</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropocentric Ethics and Anti-anthropocentric Ethics</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter 4
**The Human Person and His Body**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanizing Medicine</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Human Person and His Centrality</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Body and Its Values</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The dualist or intellectualist concept</em></td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The monistic concept</em></td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The personalist concept of man and of corporality</em></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Transcendence of the Person</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Person, Health, and Illness</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Illness: A Brief Historical Overview</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The classical period</em></td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The modern and postmodern period</em></td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The human body: commercialized and de-formed</em></td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter 5
**Bioethics and Its Principles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethics as Life and as a Science</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective Morality and Subjective Morality</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Freedom</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Freedom as self-determination</em></td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Freedom as self-realization</em></td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Freedom as a relationship</em></td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Integral definition of freedom</em></td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The need for moral formation</em></td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norms, Values, and Natural Law</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Natural Moral Law as the “Way to the End”</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Essential Unity of Nature and Reason</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of the Natural Moral Law</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Natural Law Is “Living”</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teleological Ethics and Deontological Ethics</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perspectives in Contemporary Ethics</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Chapter 6

**Bioethics and Medicine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Complexity of Medicine and Ethical Convergence</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine as Science and Ethical Demands</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Temptation of Technology</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on Society</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Environmental Component</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aims, Limits, and Risks of Medicine</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Respect for reality</em></td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Medicine as relational knowledge</em></td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Medicine as the ability to restore</em></td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The therapeutic relationship</em></td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Impossible medicine and false hopes</em></td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Physician-Patient Relationship</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The nature of the physician-patient relationship</em></td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The foundation of the medical act</em></td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Models of the physician-patient relationship</em></td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The meaning of the patient’s good</em></td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Extent and quality of information and consent</em></td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Call for Virtue in the Physician-Patient Relationship</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter 7

**Bioethics Committees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why Bioethics Committees?</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Necessary Preconditions for the Establishment of Bioethics Committees</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reintegrating the Anthropological Unity of Medical Knowledge and Medical Practice 246
The Problem of Standard Values and Criteria 248
Overcoming the Politicization of Medicine: Patients’ Rights and Physicians’ Rights 249
Parameters for the Formulation of Ethical Judgments 251
Functions and Characteristics of Bioethics Committees 253
The Ideal Characteristics of Bioethics Committees 256
The International Situation 259
United States of America 260
Australia 262
Japan 264
Europe 265
Italy 274
Conclusions and Outlook 282
UNESCO and Its Bioethics Committee 283
Summary 285

Part Two
Particular Bioethics

Chapter 8
Bioethics, Genetics, and Prenatal Diagnosis

Genetic Engineering and Manipulation 297
Relevance and delimitation of the topic 297
Some important stages in the development of genetic engineering 304
Levels and aims of intervention: Prospects and risks for the new postgenomic medicine 310
Levels of intervention 310
Aims 312
Ethical approaches and ethical judgment criteria 313
The nonmanipulability of causal origin 316
Ethical principles 321
Specific ethical norms 323
Problems with postnatal genetic diagnosis and screening 326
Postnatal genetic testing to verify a diagnosis of illness 326
Premarital and preconception diagnosis 327
Genetic screening of employees 328
The Human Genome Project and related ethical issues 331
Genetic tests in forensic medicine 333
Genetic tests for insurance purposes 334
Gene therapy 335
Genetic engineering for the modification and enhancement of human beings 337
### Chapter 9

**Bioethics, Sexuality, and Human Procreation**

- Scope and Current Relevance of the Topic 373
- Developments in Catholic Morality on the Topic of Sexuality 382
- Anthropological presuppositions regarding sexuality and procreation 384
- Sexuality as Reciprocal Recognition 387
- Physical Sex and Psychological Sex 390
- Freedom and Responsibility with regard to Sex 391
- Conjugality and Procreativeness 392
- The Meanings of Conjugality and the Conjugal Act 394
- Ethics of Responsible Procreation and Contraception 395
  - *The principle of responsibility* 397
  - *The principle of the truth of love* 399
  - *The principle of sincerity* 409
- Summary 412

### Chapter 10

**Bioethics and Abortion**

- The Bioethical Vantage Point 419
- The New Conceptus in Light of Genetics and Human Biology 422
- The Human Character of the Embryo 426
- The Ontological and Ethical Value of the New Conceptus 434
  - *The law as a preventive measure* 434
  - *The moment of ensoulment* 436
  - *Self-conscious awareness* 438
  - *Essential behavior and relation* 439
  - *Recognizing the human image* 440
  - *The intention to procreate and contraceptive abortion* 441
  - *Philosophical conclusion: the biological and the human* 442
  - *Ethical conclusion* 445
- Abortion from the Viewpoint of Legal Ethics 446
- “Therapeutic Abortion”: The Conflict between 447
the Life of the Mother and the Life of the Conceptus

The "indications" for therapeutic abortion

Ethical assessment of "therapeutic abortion"

The dramatic cases

Conclusion

Eugenic Abortion

Abortion Law and Conscientious Objection

Conscience and its demands of freedom and truth

The normative character of the law and the bond of conscience

Conscientious objection and elective abortion

“Hidden” Forms of Abortion

The Prevention of Spontaneous Abortion

Summary

Chapter 11

Bioethics and Human Fertilization Technologies

Definition of the Ethical Problem

Some Distinctions

Artificial Insemination

Historical notes and statistics

Medical indications, techniques, and results

Medical indications

Techniques

Results

Ethical assessment of intracorporeal artificial insemination

Moral aspects of homologous artificial insemination

The permissibility of the various means and methods of obtaining semen

Ethical assessment of heterologous artificial insemination

Gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) and other techniques of intracorporeal fertilization

In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer

Importance and current relevance of the topic

Historical notes on IVF-ET

Medical indications, methods, and success rates

Complications of IVF-ET

Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome

Possible increase in the incidence of fetal malformations

Asynchrony of endometrial and embryonic development

Ectopic pregnancies

Multiple pregnancies

Ethical problems concerning IVF-ET

Extracorporeal homologous artificial fertilization: loss of embryos and of conjugal unity
Extracorporeal heterologous artificial fertilization 513
Repercussions on marital and parental unity 515
The identity of the unborn child 516
The eugenic incentive 517
Surrogate mothers 518
In vitro fertilization and experimentation 520
Aberrant forms of fertilization and gestation 522
Artificial fertilization changes the meaning of human relations 523
What should be the fate of frozen embryos: adoption for birth? 526
Artificial fertilization in ethics and law 527
Concluding considerations 531
Sex Selection or Determination 532
Motives for sex selection or sex predetermination 532
Hypothetical and experimental methods before conception 533
Methods proposed for after conception 534
Natural methods and sex selection 534
Ethical assessment 535
The ends or motives 535
The admissibility of methods and techniques 536
From Child as Therapy to Therapeutic Cloning 536
Stem cells 537
Therapeutic cloning 538
The ANT technique 539
Summary 540

Chapter 12
Bioethics and Sterilization

Historical Notes and Various Forms of Sterilization 549
Contraceptive Sterilization in the World 551
The Situation in Italy 553
The Techniques 555
Moral Assessment 558
The Inviolability of the Person and of His Physical Integrity 560
The Unitotality of the Human Being 563
The Principles of Optionality and Totality 564
The Request for Voluntary Sterilization as a Symptom 565
Corollaries and Specific Cases of Particular Gravity 567
The extreme case 567
The mentally ill woman and the case of intra- or extramarital violence 569
Sterilization and the Law 573
Voluntary Sterilization and Libertarian Neo–Natural Law Theory 575
Summary 577
### Chapter 13
#### Bioethics and Human Experimentation

Clinical Drug Trials 581

- **Experimentation is necessary** 581
- **The technical meaning of pharmacological experimentation** 583

**History, practice, and legislation** 588

- Experiments on oneself 588
- Experiments on volunteer subjects 588
- Experiments on those sentenced to death 588
- Experiments on prisoners in the Nazi concentration camps 588
- The Nuremberg Code 589
- The Declaration of Helsinki 589

**International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects** 590

- European directives 590
- Decrees and circulars of the Ministry of Health 594

**Ethics of human experimentation** 596

- The fundamental ethical values 596
- Practical ethical guidelines regarding human experimentation 601

**Ethical assessment and specific cases** 605

- Experimentation on healthy volunteers 607
- Experimentation on oneself 607
- Experimentation on detainees 607
- Experimentation on children and minors 608
- Experimentation by means of randomized clinical trials 609

**Experimentation on Human Fetuses and Embryos** 610

- **The novelty of the issue** 610
- **Therapeutic intrauterine interventions** 612
- **Interventions for purely scientific research** 613
- **Experiments on aborted human fetuses** 615
- **The extraction of fetal tissues for the purpose of transplantation** 617

“Proposal of an Ethical Commitment for Researchers in the Biomedical Field” 618

**Summary** 621

### Chapter 14
#### Bioethics and Organ Transplants

**Scientific and Technological Advances** 627

**Terminology and Historical-Descriptive Notes** 629

**Liver Transplants from Living Donors** 631

“Non-life-saving” Transplants of Visible Parts 632

“Crossover” Transplants 632
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Prospects and International Cooperation</td>
<td>635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Italian Legal Situation</td>
<td>636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ethical Aspect of the Problem: General Principles</td>
<td>639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defending the lives of the donor and the recipient</td>
<td>639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting the personal identity of the recipient and the recipient's descendents</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informed consent</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The problem of determination of death in transplants from a cadaver</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Current Debate on Brain Death</td>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Case of Heterologous Transplant</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue Grafts</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Anencephalic Newborn as Organ Donor</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>658</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter 15
Bioethics, Euthanasia, and Death with Dignity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Terms and History of the Problem</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Present Cultural Context</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The secularization of thought and life</td>
<td>668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rationalistic and humanitarian scientism</td>
<td>671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The imbalance in medicine between technology and humanization</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Teaching of the Church’s Magisterium</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Moral Teaching on Euthanasia</td>
<td>679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rejection of euthanasia properly speaking</td>
<td>679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proportionate use of therapeutic means</td>
<td>683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The administration of normal care and palliative care</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The refusal of therapeutic obstinacy and dysthanasia</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of analgesics</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telling the truth to a terminally ill patient</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Some Deontological and Legal Documents</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation of the Council of Europe</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance directives</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principles of European Medical Ethics</td>
<td>698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A proposed resolution in the European Parliament</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiatives for the legalization of euthanasia</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The bill proposed by the Health and Hygiene Committee of the Italian Senate</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Italian Code of Medical Ethics of 2006</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Present Legislative Situation Worldwide</td>
<td>705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Euthanasia: The Gröningen Protocol</td>
<td>706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanasia as a Legal Problem</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanasia and Suicide</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>711</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 16
Bioethics and Technology

The Insatiability of History 717
Technological and Scientific Progress, 720
Anthropology, and Ethics
Computer Science and Anthropology 722
  Reassuring consequences of computer science 722
  at the anthropological and cultural level
  Problematic aspects of the emergence of computer science 723
Ethical Requirements vis-à-vis 724
the Computer Science Culture
Some Specific Ethical Frontiers of Applied Technology 725
  Genetic modification 725
  The use of atomic energy 726
  Environmental pollution 729
Technology as the Sole Horizon Transforms Man into an Automaton 730
Summary 735

Bibliography 741
Names Index 829
Subject Index 833