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VATICAN CITY, 12 DEC 2008 (VIS). This morning near the press-room of the Holy See was presented instruction Dignitas Personae of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, dedicated to bioethics some points.

The conference was hosted by Mgr.Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer SJ, secretary of the Congregation, surrounded by Mgr.Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, of Mgr.Elio Sgreccia, President Emeritus, Mrs Luisa Di Pietro, Professor of Bioethics near the Catholic University of Rome.

First, Mgr.Ladaria said that education is the result of a study undertaken in 2002 by the dicastery to clarify some points already covered in the instruction Donum Vitae of 1987. The new document, which belongs to the Magisterium ordinary of the Pope is doctrinal.

The Dignitas Personae instruction encourages biomedical research conducted with respect for human dignity and the right to procreation. "Do not rule declaring certain bioethical ethically illicit technologies, it will probably be accused of containing too many prohibitions. Faced with this charge we will emphasize how the Church has the duty to give a voice to those who do not have one."

Then Mgr. Fisichella said the document is to contribute to the formation of consciences, "and not just those of believers, but of all people have to listen and discuss the arguments presented. This intervention, which belongs to the mission of the church, should be received as legitimate but even more necessary in a pluralistic society. "

Then Ms. Di Pietro said that before moving on to the points raised by the investigation, such as fertility assistance techniques, in vitro fertilization, cryopreservation of embryos and oocytes, embryo selection or pre-diagnosis implantation, it should be remembered the three basic rules: respect for individual dignity from conception to natural death, as part of a subjective right to life and to physical integrity; respect for the unity of marriage, which implies respect for the rights of spouses in their procreation which is exclusive; respect for the value of human sexuality, which requires that procreation is the fruit of a conjugal act of love.

For his part, Mgr.Sgreccia raised the third part of the document which deals with new therapies involving embryonic manipulation or genetic. In the matter, "we must make a fundamental distinction. Theoretically gene therapy can be applied to somatic cells for strictly therapeutic purposes, or germ cell" on which "Unfortunately, there is no reliable technique. It therefore not possible to intervene in this case because it may have for future generations at risk of malformation inscribed in the genetic heritage ".

Finally, "we can not support a distinction between reproductive and therapeutic clonation clonation as the therapeutic term always involves reproduction".

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