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This fourth edition of *Medical Ethics: Sources of Catholic Teachings* is designed to help health care professionals and the public at large know the teaching of the Church concerning various health care issues by presenting the relevant documents that contain and explain it. But it is also our intention to help interested people to comprehend and internalize this teaching by presenting material summarizing the methods of Church teaching. In this fourth edition we have collected not only documents concerned with clinical and research issues but also the statements of the Church concerned with organizational ethics. Thus the content of this edition has been expanded significantly due to the inclusion of social justice teaching in regard to health care and new entries that have resulted from ongoing commentary by various authoritative voices within the Church. In contrast we have omitted some of the chapters from the third edition, for example the sections on murder and homosexuality. While the Church has definite and clear teaching on such issues, these topics are not pertinent to clinical bioethics.

In order to present this collection of Church teaching in proper perspective, part I is broken into three introductory chapters. The first chapter presents the teaching