

## **I. INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS 1**

### ***Theme 1: Nature of pre-ethical anthropology***

#### **What is Ethics 1?**

- Last semester you did Introduction to Ethics which studied Personal Ethics, Bioethics, Family Ethics and Theology.
- Now we are starting Ethics 1, which is also called Philosophical Anthropology; it deals with the philosophical study of man; that is, we study and try to get to know the human person better; we try to get to know and understand ourselves better.
  - ✓ We are human beings: what are we made of?
  - ✓ What actions can we carry out? Speak, walk, feel anger, eat, etc.
  - ✓ Why can we do all those things? What makes it possible for us to do them?
- In this unit we are going to study human life:
  - ✓ who and what is the human being;
  - ✓ what makes us different from animals;
  - ✓ the body and the soul;
  - ✓ how we know things;
  - ✓ what makes us able to love other people or to want a new mobile;
  - ✓ we shall take a look at human emotions and feelings
- We will also study the dynamics of human relationships and social life
- Finally, we will take a look at the end of human life and the possibilities of life after death

#### **Why study Ethics 1?**

- We are studying all this:
  - ✓ to get to know and understand ourselves better;
  - ✓ to be able to understand other people better; human resources; personnel management;
  - ✓ this will be of use in working and dealing with other people in all sorts of situations:

- in the workplace;
  - in the family;
  - with friends;
  - clients;
  - on the bus, at the bank, in a traffic jam, etc.
- ✓ to prepare for your community attachment where you will have to look after needy people, work in a team with colleagues, obey a boss's orders, provide services to people and so on
  - ✓ as a basis for moving on to study Ethics 2 afterwards, where we will be reflecting on how and why the human being acts; how he should act to attain happiness and fulfillment, etc.
- Ethics 1 is a basis for Ethics 2, and also for the Social and Political Philosophy you will study in third year (man's life in society) and finally, for business ethics that will be studied in fourth year
    - ✓ So these Ethics units build on one another to give you a deep knowledge of human nature and activity;
    - ✓ And clear ideas regarding truly ethical behaviour, which is what our society needs in our leaders, managers, business and communications people of the future;
  - In Kenya, and other places, we have serious problems with corruption, bribery, lack of ethical conduct which is contributing to the downfall of the economy, industry, basic services, etc. that everyone laments and complains about.
    - ✓ (Get illustrative article) All this shows the need for ethical conduct and practice in the individuals who make up our society, starting with ourselves.
    - ✓ But to understand what constitutes ethical conduct, we need to understand the person who acts first of all;
    - ✓ So in this unit, Ethics 1, we will get to know who we are so we can later study how we ought to act in order to be true to ourselves

### **Characteristics of Philosophical Anthropology**

- The term "Philosophical anthropology" comes from the Greek: anthropos (man) and logos (treatise or science) = the (philosophical) study of man.

- ✓ We are going to study some of the characteristics that the philosophical reflection on man should have
- It ought to explain man; try to understand, relate the different issues and reach the bottom of the various topics.
  - ✓ It involves asking about the meaning of life, death; what are the human feelings, and so on; asking WHY?
- It ought to have a metaphysical element; that is, we will study man from the point of view of his being a permanent and subsistent being that is rooted in being (reality, existence)
- Integral: it ought to consider man, by taking into account all the dimensions of his life: psychological, biological, sociological, spiritual, etc; take into account the developments in other sciences that may contribute to our knowledge of man, such as those in the areas of law, psychiatry, ethics, etc.
- Scientific: anthropology seeks to study man in depth, discovering connections among the different aspects of the human makeup and offering a systematic explanation of the mystery of man.
- Experimental: anthropology arises from the analysis of human experience; it is a practical study on man and his life; requires a deep and rich contact with human realities taken from life, literature, biographies, etc.
  - ✓ Here we are aiming at developing an anthropology that is truly personalist. For this reason we will deal systematically with notions such as who is the human being and where does his dignity lie; the basic human makeup involving the bodily, the psychic and the spiritual dimensions; the activity of the person; interpersonal relations and finally, transcendental issues such as death, immortality, etc