Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course

***Ethical Issues***

Case Studies

**Case Study #1: Patient Refuses Blood Transfusion**

Joy the FCN is following Mr. Smith a diabetic patient with progressive gangrene on his right leg. With no spouse or living will, Mr. Jones has decided against cardiopulmonary resuscitation. He needs surgery and has agreed to the procedure. He refuses a blood transfusion even though he faith tradition is not a Jehovah witness. His children have donated blood but Mr. Smith indicates he is not afraid to die. The surgeon will not perform the surgery which is urgent without Mr. Smith agreeing to a blood transfusion should it become necessary. He shares his refusal for surgery with Joy, his FCN.

**Case Study #2: Pregnancy Reduction Recommended**

A couple In the faith community, Mark and Mary Thomas, are expecting four babies. They as well as the congregation are joyous about the pregnancy. The doctor recommends that the pregnancy be reduced to two babies, a recommendation that is known only to the Mark and Mary, their parents, the FCN, and the spiritual leader.

The FCN does not personally oppose abortion but is well aware that the teachings of this faith community are against abortion. The spiritual leader meets with the Mark and Mary and their parents. The spiritual leader reminds them of the faith community’s teachings against abortion and is convinced that reducing the pregnancy is viewed as abortion of otherwise viable fetuses.

The spiritual leaders asks the FCN, Joy, to meet with the couple to help them make the “correct decision”. The spiritual leaders tells Joy that this is a very difficult ministry, but knows Joy will be helpful. The spiritual leader is does not want to know the decision, but will pray for Joy and knows she will guide the couple to the morally right decision.