

Apology for Prince Harry leak
An Australian magazine apologized yesterday to readers and troops serving abroad for publishing a story revealing that Prince Harry was fighting with British troops in Afghanistan. AP

Seven 'social' sins for the 21st century

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NEW YORK. Pride, envy, lust — and now stem-cell research?

As if we didn't have enough guilt, a Vatican spokesman announced seven new deadly "social" sins that include pollution, creating poverty, drug abuse and "morally dubious" scientific experiments such as stem cell research.

"You offend God not only by stealing, taking the Lord's name in vain or coveting your neighbor's wife, but also by wrecking the environment" and "carrying out morally debatable experiments that manipulate DNA or harm embryos," Archbishop Gianfranco Girotti told Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*.

At the top of the list of threats to souls today were

bioethics issues, such as genetic engineering and stem-cell research that destroys human embryos. Girotti, head of the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary, which is responsible for issues relating to forgiving sins, called such experiments "violations of the fundamental rights of human nature."

The old mortal vices, which became part of Catholic doctrine in the sixth century, included pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed and sloth, all punishable by eternal damnation unless the sinner found absolution through confession or contrition. But while saying that the Church was still concerned about traditional sins, including abortion and pedophilia, Girotti contended that vice today had "a more social resonance" because of globalization, damaging society as a whole, he said.

Everything old is new again

The seven social sins:

- 1** 'Bioethical' violations such as birth control
- 2** 'Morally dubious' experiments such as stem-cell research
- 3** Drug abuse
- 4** Polluting the environment
- 5** Contributing to widening divide between rich and poor
- 6** Excessive wealth
- 7** Creating poverty

The original deadly sins:

- 1** Pride
- 2** Envy
- 3** Gluttony
- 4** Lust
- 5** Anger
- 6** Greed
- 7** Sloth

