

1 A friend of yours is doing a student chaplaincy internship in a San Francisco hospital as an
 2 HIV-AIDS care giver. The student intern has heard that you are taking a course in moral problems at
 3 USF and asks for your judgment on how to handle the following case. He relates to you the case of
 4 one of his clients named Kevin, who is 28 and now in an advanced state of AIDS-related illness.
 5 Kevin has been in a monogamous relationship for the past three years with his partner, Steve, who is 25
 6 and also HIV+, but asymptomatic. Both Kevin and Steve are Roman Catholics, and have had a
 7 complete Catholic education, culminating with graduation from USF and Santa Clara respectively.
 8 Kevin and Steve told the student chaplain-intern that they have come to an agreement that Steve would
 9 remain sexually active with other men, since Kevin's health no longer easily allows for any kind of sexual
 10 activity (not even "safe" sex). In the conversation with these men they said that they have been advised
 11 by a Catholic acquaintance of theirs in the past that they are sinning if they engage in any sexual
 12 intercourse, since the Church condemns such homogenital activity as intrinsically evil and therefore
 13 immoral. Moreover, this same person told them that they should not receive the Eucharist (Holy
 14 Communion). Yet, the two of them disagree with this position and continue to come to church and to
 15 receive Holy Communion. They say that "if God is love and love is God, then we've shown this love to
 16 other people through our lives, and therefore who can condemn us?" Both Kevin and Steve express a
 17 doubt as to if the Church can say anything credible in the arena of sexual ethics. Steve, on the other
 18 hand, has decided to remain sexually active, though he uses a condom and informs his partners that he
 19 is HIV+. Steve told the student-intern that he does not believe his actions are morally wrong, and
 20 argues that "Since I am not a religious I have taken no vows of celibacy. Moreover, I've been honest
 21 with people, and why should I be expected to live a life of celibacy?"

22 Your student-intern friend now turns to you for your reflections and suggestions on how to handle this case....

In your discussion try and focus on the "moral triangle" method of approaching an ethical issue, namely by identifying the *assumptions & morally relevant features* in the **Issues Angle**; the *relevant moral principles & truth claims* in the **Judgment Angle**; and the *goals & strategies* in the **Application Angle**.

