



PARISH 'LIFE' NEWS

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Church Experts: Vaccines Preserve 'Moral Health' of Communities

Measles, chicken pox and other diseases are making a comeback as more parents are choosing not to vaccinate their children out of the fear of side effects. Skeptics are concerned it leads to sickness, autism or death. Since the recent rise in cases of measles, the Catholic Church has restated its support for vaccinations, and has openly discussed the ethics of using vaccines, some of which were created using cells taken from aborted fetuses. The chickenpox, rubella, hepatitis A, one version of the shingles vaccine, and one preparation of rabies vaccine were all made by growing the viruses in fetal embryo fibroblast cells, which were first obtained from two terminated pregnancies in the early 1960s. These same embryonic cells have continued to grow in the laboratory for use in making vaccines today. No further sources of fetal cells are needed to make these vaccines. According to the Pontifical Academy for Life -- a research institution on bioethics and moral theology issues within the church -- Catholics are encouraged to utilize vaccines "despite their distant association with abortion." The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia [stated] that Catholics are "morally free to use the vaccine, despite its historical association with abortion." The center adds that Catholics "have a moral obligation to protect the life and health of their children and those around them." New York State lawmakers passed a bill on June 13 that ends religious exemptions to vaccines in the state. The New York State Catholic Conference did not take a position on the bill, but remains concerned with the consequences of tampering with religious freedom. "The herd immunity provided by the mandatory vaccination law is an essential component of maintaining the public health, and we support this policy," said Dennis Poust, director of communications for the New York State Catholic Conference. Measles can lead to complications such as diarrhea, ear infections or pneumonia and brain infections that can cause permanent brain damage. Contracting measles during pregnancy also can increase the risk of early labor, miscarriage and low birth weight infants. Dr. Cynthia Renauld Lansing, physician and member of the Catholic Medical Association, said that people with weaker immune systems who are unable to receive the vaccines are relying on herd immunity to stay safe: "Anybody whose immunity is compromised, anybody who's on chemotherapy, they're relying on people to be vaccinated," she said.

[The Pilot](#), 6/18/19

Abortion Reversed

"Alexis," [pseudonym] entered a Charlotte, NC abortion facility to end her pregnancy of six weeks. "Oh, twins," said the technician performing an ultrasound. The words were enough. Alexis did not need to see the ultrasound. She had always dreamt of having twins, but having already swallowed the first "abortion pill" of RU-486, the process of terminating her pregnancy had begun. Walking out of the abortion facility, she had heard a sidewalk counselor tell her: "It might not be too late for you—[AbortionPillReversal.com](#)—they can still help you save your baby." Minutes later, she was on the phone with HELP Pregnancy Center, desperate to see if she could go back on her decision. "We got her started on the abortion pill reversal treatment extremely fast," said Courtney Parks, abortion pill reversal coordinator for HELP Pregnancy Center. Several months later, Alexis gave birth to a healthy set of twins. Andrea Trudden, director of communications and marketing for [Heartbeat International](#), which provided the life-saving protocol, said, "Abortion Pill Rescue truly is the last chance these women have to choose life for their babies. These twins represent just two of the more than 750 lives that have been saved through abortion pill reversal since 2012."

[Foxnews.com](#), 6/27/19

HHS Ends Research Program to Use Human Tissue from Aborted Babies

The decision follows a "comprehensive review" by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) into any research involving fetal tissue. When the review identified a program at the University of California, San Francisco that used fetal tissue, the determination was made not to renew its federally funded contract. The non-renewal means that the National Institutes for Health (NIH) no longer funds any research that involves aborted remains. The research program used bone marrow, thymuses, and livers from aborted babies to create mice with human-like immune systems. The "humanized mice" were then used for testing and experimentation. NJ Representative. Chris Smith called the practice of using aborted remains "unethical" and "ineffective," claiming that it has not produced "a single clinical treatment." Smith said that other techniques, which do not involve the use of any fetal body parts, exist, and are "proven ethical alternatives for this life-saving research."

[The Pilot](#), 6/5/19



PROJECT MUSTARD SEED

The letter recipient for this month is:

BANK OF AMERICA

Operations: **financial** (Merrill Lynch, U.S. Trust, banking, credit cards, insurance, investing/planning; loans, personal/ business banking).

Please write to:

Mr. Brian T. Moynihan, Chairman & CEO
Bank of America Corp.
100 N. Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28255

Tell him to
stop funding
Planned
Parenthood.

www.bankofamerica.com

Bank of America was on The Boycott List for many years and had been removed in 2016. However, recently it was brought to our attention that they have not been entirely truthful in their commitment to no longer fund PP. Among other things, it has been discovered that Bank of America was a “Bronze Sponsor” of a Planned Parenthood of New York City gala event that took place on May 1, 2018 to honor former PP president Cecile Richards. Let us remind Bank of America that we are very concerned about any donations that they would give to the number one abortion provider in America. Tell him to stop funding Planned Parenthood

Cleveland Clinic Performs Its First In-Utero Fetal Surgery

A multispecialty team of clinicians performed surgery in February to repair a spina bifida birth defect in a nearly 23-week-old fetus; the baby girl was later delivered by caesarean section near full term June 3, making it northern Ohio’s first surgery of its kind. Mother and daughter are doing well. Spina bifida is a birth defect that is most often discovered during the routine anatomy scan typically performed when a fetus is around 18 weeks old. The condition affects the lowest part of the spine and occurs when the neural tube does not fully close, causing the backbone that protects the spinal cord not to form, as it should. This often results in damage to the spinal cord and nerves and can even lead to brain damage. Surgical repair involves carefully suturing several individual layers of tissue (myofascia, dura and skin) in order to cover the defect. Spina bifida can affect a child’s lower leg strength and ability to walk and run as well as to urinate adequately. According to the CDC, approximately 1,645 babies are born with spina bifida each year in the United States. “Although the surgery was a success, spina bifida is never cured,” said Dr. Cass, Director of Fetal Surgery. “Moving forward, the baby will require ongoing supportive care provided by a multidisciplinary team of caregivers in our Spina Bifida Clinic, which will involve neurology, urology, orthopedics, developmental pediatrics and neurosurgery, among other specialists.” The surgical team worked for more than a year to prepare for this first surgery, including making site visits to other centers, conducting simulations, and consulting with other experts in the field. newsroom.clevelandclinic.com, 6/17/19

Court Orders Death by Starvation for Disabled Patient

France's top court ruled that a quadriplegic patient who has been in a vegetative state for more than a decade should be allowed to die. The Cour de Cassation overruled an appeals court that last month had ordered doctors to keep Vincent Lambert alive, just 12 hours after medics had already switched off the man's life support against his parents' will. The 42-year-old former psychiatric nurse's fate has torn apart his family and sparked fierce nationwide debate over the right to die. His wife and some of his siblings say care should be withdrawn. But Lambert's Catholic parents, backed by other relatives, wanted him kept alive, and launched a series of legal bids to keep his care going. The new ruling means that the hospital in Reims, northeastern France, could again stop the artificial feeding and hydration that have kept Lambert alive since a motorcycle accident in 2008. He has almost no consciousness but can breathe without a respirator and occasionally moves his eyes. While euthanasia is illegal in France, a 2016 law allows doctors to put terminally ill patients into continuous deep sedation (CDS) by doctors until death. The law draws a distinction between euthanasia and CDS, making France the first country to legislate in this way. Euthanasia is permitted in various forms in the Netherlands, Belgium, Colombia and Luxembourg. Physician-assisted death, which involves a doctor helping a patient to end their own life, is legal in Canada and in a few U.S. states. CBC News, 6/28/19
Vatican officials condemned the removal of food and hydration from Lambert. In a joint statement last month, Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life, and Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said the interruption of food and hydration entail a “serious violation of the dignity of the person.” The Catholic Church does not require the use of extraordinary means to preserve life, but considers the provision of food and hydration to be an ordinary standard of care. NCR, 6/29/19