

Family Life † Respect Life ARCHDIOCESE of NEW YORK

BULLETIN QUOTES

“WE ARE NOT SOME CASUAL OR MEANINGLESS PRODUCT OF EVOLUTION. EACH OF US IS THE RESULT OF A THOUGHT OF GOD. EACH OF US IS WILLED, EACH OF US IS LOVED, EACH OF US IS NECESSARY.”

—Pope Benedict XVI, homily, April 24, 2005

“HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED AND INVIOLEABLE AT EVERY MOMENT OF EXISTENCE, INCLUDING THE INITIAL PHASE WHICH PRECEDES BIRTH. ALL HUMAN BEINGS, FROM THEIR MOTHERS’ WOMB, BELONG TO GOD WHO SEARCHES THEM AND KNOWS THEM, WHO FORMS THEM AND KNITS THEM TOGETHER WITH HIS OWN HANDS, WHO GAZES ON THEM WHEN THEY ARE TINY SHAPELESS EMBRYOS AND ALREADY SEES IN THEM THE ADULTS OF TOMORROW WHOSE DAYS ARE NUMBERED AND WHOSE VOCATION IS EVEN NOW WRITTEN IN THE “BOOK OF LIFE” (cf. Ps. 139: 1, 13-16).

— *Evangelium Vitae*, 61

“IF THE BEING THAT WAS WITHIN ITS MOTHER’S WOMB IS AN INNOCENT HUMAN BEING WITH AN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO LIVE ONE MINUTE AFTER IT LEAVES ITS MOTHER’S WOMB, WHAT WOULD MAKE ANYONE THINK IT WAS OTHER THAN AN INNOCENT HUMAN BEING WITH AN INALIENABLE RIGHT TO LIVE ONE MINUTE BEFORE IT LEAVES ITS MOTHER’S WOMB, OR ONE MONTH BEFORE, OR EVEN NINE MONTHS BEFORE?”

— *Edward Cardinal Egan, Catholic New York, September, 2004*

“THERE ARE NO LIVES THAT ARE NOT WORTH LIVING; THERE IS NO SUFFERING, NO MATTER HOW GRAVE, THAT CAN JUSTIFY KILLING A LIFE; THERE ARE NO REASONS, NO MATTER HOW NOBLE, THAT MAKE PLAUSIBLE THE CREATION OF HUMAN BEINGS, DESTINED TO BE USED AND DESTROYED.”

— Pope John Paul II, “Medicine is Always at the Service of Life,” November 12, 2004

“POSSIBLE EXPERIMENTATION ON [HUMAN EMBRYOS] IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES WOULD INVOLVE A VERY HIGH...RISK OF CAUSING THEM IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE AND EVEN DEATH. THE ATTITUDE THAT SOME ADOPT CONCERNING THE LEGITIMACY OF SACRIFICING...HUMAN BEINGS AT THE EMBRYONIC STAGE IN ORDER TO DESTROY THEM... TO BENEFIT OTHER HUMAN INDIVIDUALS IS...TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. IT IS NEVER MORALLY LICIT TO DO EVIL INTENTIONALLY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE ENDS THAT ARE GOOD IN THEMSELVES.”

— Pontifical Academy for Life,

“Concluding Communiqué on the Ethics of Biomedical Research,” February 26, 2003

“PROGRESS OBTAINED AT THE PRICE OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY IS UNACCEPTABLE. IF RESEARCH ATTACKS MAN, IT IS A DEVIATION OF SCIENCE. EVEN IF WE PROTEST THAT THIS OR THAT RESEARCH WILL OPEN POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE, WE MUST SAY NO WHEN MAN IS AT STAKE.”

— Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI), interview with *Le Figaro*, December 2001

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“SO-CALLED THERAPEUTIC CLONING, CREATING HUMAN EMBRYOS WITH THE INTENTION OF DESTROYING THEM, EVEN IF UNDERTAKEN WITH THE GOAL OF POSSIBLY HELPING SICK PATIENTS IN THE FUTURE, SEEMS VERY CLEARLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN BEING, MAKING ONE HUMAN LIFE NOTHING MORE THAN THE INSTRUMENT OF ANOTHER.”

—Archbishop Migliore, “Cloning Concerns the Nature and Existence of Human Life Itself”
Statement to 6TH Committee of U.N. General Assembly, October 22, 2004

“IN ‘THERAPEUTIC’ CLONING, ONE USES THE NEWLY PRODUCED HUMAN BEING AS MERE LABORATORY MATERIAL. SUCH INSTRUMENTAL USE OF A HUMAN BEING GRAVELY OFFENDS HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN KIND.”

— Statement of the Holy See on Human Cloning addressed to United Nations,
“Humanity Needs a Common Basis, a Common Understanding of Humanity,” October 22, 2004

“IT IS IMMORAL TO PRODUCE HUMAN EMBRYOS INTENDED FOR EXPLOITATION AS DISPOSABLE BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.”

— *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* §2275

“IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT NO ONE...WOULD INDULGE IN A MERELY INDIVIDUALISTIC MORALITY. THE BEST WAY TO FULFILL ONE’S OBLIGATIONS OF JUSTICE AND LOVE IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMON GOOD ACCORDING TO ONE’S MEANS AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS, AND ALSO TO PROMOTE AND HELP PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO BETTERING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE.”

— *The Church in the Modern World*, 30

SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS

FOR ALL THOSE WHO SUFFER WITH
DISEASE OR DISABILITY,
that they may find comfort in the love of Christ, and
cures through ethical research and medical progress;
We pray to the Lord:

FOR THOSE WHO STUDY MEDICINE,
that they may be driven by a desire to heal
and protect every human being;
We pray to the Lord:

FOR MEDICAL RESEARCHERS,
that they may be inspired and strengthened
by a love for every human being, from the
first moment of his or her creation;
We pray to the Lord:

FOR THOSE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE,
that they may consider the impact of any policy
or program on human life, human rights and
human dignity, and be guided by
fundamental moral principles;
We pray to the Lord: