



Sometimes it is wrongly said that the Catholic Church opposes stem cell research. In fact, the Church supports ethically responsible stem cell research, while opposing any research that exploits or destroys human embryos.

Because the Church opposes deliberately destroying innocent human life at any stage, for research or any other purpose, it opposes embryonic stem cell research as currently conducted. However, when scientists proposed avenues for possibly obtaining embryonic stem cells or their pluripotent equivalent without creating or harming embryos, Catholic leaders were among the first to welcome this idea.

The Catholic Church has long supported research using stem cells from adult tissue and umbilical cord blood, which poses no moral problem. Catholic institutions at times have taken the lead in promoting such constructive research, which is already providing cures and treatments for suffering patients:

- In October 2005, the Catholic bishops of South Korea said they would raise and donate about \$10 million to advancing adult stem cell research.
- South Korea's Catholic Medical Centre announced in June 2005 that it had successfully treated stroke and vascular disease in 64 patients using adult stem cells.
- A March 2005 breakthrough demonstrating the capabilities of adult stem cells in Australia was made possible by a grant of \$50,000 (Australian dollars) from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.
- In February 2005 a major Catholic teaching hospital in Boston, Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, announced that it had "identified adult stem cells that may have the capacity to repair and regenerate all tissue types in the body"
- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has worked to pass federal legislation creating a nationwide public bank for umbilical cord blood stem cells, for research and the treatment of a wide variety of diseases.
- In 2004 Monsignor Thomas Hartman, director of radio and television for the Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, founded The Thomas Hartman Foundation for Parkinson's Research. The foundation has raised millions of dollars for adult stem cell research and other avenues for curing Parkinson's disease.

Clearly, the Church favors ethically acceptable stem cell research. It opposes destroying some human lives now, on the pretext that this may possibly help other lives in the future. We must respect life at all times, especially when our goal is to save lives.

(from USCCB's 'Catholic Support For Ethically Acceptable Stem Cell Research' - <http://dft.ba/-uscbb1>)

### Prayer to St. Albert, Patron of Scientists

O Divine Creator,  
 Saint Albert was a bishop who introduced  
 Greek and Arabic science to medieval Europe,  
 raising understanding of botany, biology,  
 physics, and other studies of nature.  
 A scientist himself, he wrote many books  
 on these subjects.  
 We ask him to pray for all scientists today,  
 for their talents to be used to promote life  
 rather than to destroy it,  
 for elusive cures to be found,  
 and for the moral use of the discoveries  
 that they have already made.  
 O Lord, fill them with Your Holy Spirit  
 to guide them into understanding  
 and respecting that You are the Author  
 and Master of all creation.  
 Saint Albert, pray for us.  
 Amen.

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*When the founder of human embryonic stem cell research says a new advance spells "the beginning of the end" for his field, we should pay attention.*

*That happened last month, when Dr. James Thomson of Wisconsin and Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of Japan discovered how to "reprogram" ordinary adult cells to act like embryonic stem cells. Dr. Thomson said these induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) "meet the defining criteria we originally proposed for human ES cells, with the significant exception that the iPS cells are not derived from embryos."*

*That is a very significant exception, in light of the past nine years of intense debate over destroying embryonic human beings for their stem cells. Dr. Thomson says the new cells will replace those taken from embryos: They are noncontroversial, are easily produced, and can be an exact genetic match to particular patients (the elusive goal that scientists pursued unsuccessfully by trying to clone human embryos).*

*Dr. Thomson now admits he always had moral qualms about destroying embryos. "If human embryonic stem cell research does not make you at least a little bit uncomfortable, you have not thought about it enough," he says. And Dr. Yamanaka has told the New York Times how a flash of moral insight, experienced while looking through a microscope at an embryo in a fertility clinic, led him to the stem cell breakthrough of the decade. "When I saw the embryo," says Dr. Yamanaka, father of two girls, "I suddenly realized there was such a small difference between it and my daughters... I thought, we can't keep destroying embryos for our research. There must be another way." And he went out and found it.*

- excerpt from 'Time to Reprogram the Stem Cell Debate'  
 by Richard M. Doerflinger, 12/14/07

# Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church

## Spiritual Adoption Program 2014

### Month 7

In the January, 2014 Life Notes, we invited all parishioners to join as one voice in prayer in the Spiritual Adoption Program. (See brochures in Pro-Life information rack.) The following prayer was recommended by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen to be said every day for a period of one year to spare the life of a baby in danger of abortion:

*“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much.  
I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted,  
who is in danger of abortion.”*

For new readers, during the next nine months, we will highlight the developmental stages of our spiritually adopted parish baby. Please refer to online sources of hearts4life.org & lifeissues.org

***Saturday, July 5th, 2014 – Hi, Holy Rosary people. I am your spiritually adopted baby. How are you? I’m now growing into my seventh month of life in my mommy’s womb. I am now about 13 inches long and weigh about 3lbs! My muscles, lungs, and other organs are continuing to mature, and my head is growing bigger to make room for my developing brain. My taste buds have developed and my bones are soaking up lots of calcium; 250 milligrams of calcium are deposited in my hardening skeleton each day! I can also now open and close my eyes and follow a light. Wow! Thank you all for your continued prayers for me, my mommy and my daddy.***

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#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Ongoing – Prayerful witness at Affiliated Women’s Service (see [truthandcompassionindy.com](http://truthandcompassionindy.com) for schedule)
- July 18, 2014: ***Respect Life Mass - St. Joseph, Terre Haute***
- July 28, 2014: ***Faithful Citizens Rosary Procession - St. John's, Indianapolis***
- July 20 - 26, 2014: ***NFP Awareness Week***  
(for more info, contact the Office of Pro-Life and Family Life)
- July 26-27, 2014: ***Crossroad Walkers*** (see bulletin for more info)

#### **Resources & Information**

The National Catholic Bioethics Center - [nbccenter.org](http://nbccenter.org)

The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity - <https://cbhd.org/>

A Catholic View: The Science of Stem Cells. Finding Cures and Protecting Life - <http://dft.ba/-acatholicview>

USCCB’s list of online Adult Stem cell resources - <http://dft.ba/-usccbadultstemcells>

Current Clinical Use of Adult Stem Cells - <http://dft.ba/-currentclinicaluseASC>

*Dignitas personae* (Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions) - <http://dft.ba/-DIGNITASPERSONAE>

[lifeissues.org/cloningstemcell/index.html](http://lifeissues.org/cloningstemcell/index.html)

"Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider world, a world in which both can flourish... We need each other to be what we must be, what we are called to be." - St. John Paul II

**Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.**

*Life Notes is a publication of the Holy Rosary Pro-Life Committee  
Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Indianapolis, IN*