

# WORLD & NATION

## British begin destruction of frozen embryos

By Paulinus Barnes  
Catholic News Service

MANCHESTER, England — British pro-lifers failed in last-minute pleas to Prime Minister John Major and to the courts for a stay of execution for thousands of abandoned embryos.

Fertility clinics across Britain began to destroy the previously frozen embryos Aug. 1 after failing to contact many of the parents of the embryos.

Pro-lifers delivered a plea to Major's London home at 10 Downing Street July 31. As clinics began the task of destroying more than 3,000 embryos, the pro-life group LIFE launched a last-ditch appeal to the official solicitor to stop the process. Both appeals were unsuccessful.

Legislation passed by the British Parliament in 1990 permitted the use of embryos for experimentation and established rules for the treatment of embryos produced from in vitro fertilization.

Parliament agreed that beginning Aug. 1, 1991, embryos could be stored deep frozen for a maximum of five years, until Aug. 1, 1996. Parliament has since agreed that the storage limit may be extended, but only with the consent of the embryos' parents.

Jack Scarisbrick, chairman of LIFE, was accompanied by three couples wanting to

"adopt" the embryos as he delivered the plea for a six-month stay of execution for the embryos to Major and to Stephen Dorrell, secretary of state for health.

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, which controls and regulates the fertility clinics on behalf of the government, had already ruled out the possibility of couples adopting the embryos facing destruction. Ruth Deech, chairwoman of the authority, said July 22 that such a move would be "wrong both legally and ethically."

Freezing of human embryos was condemned in a 1987 document on procreation prepared by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. "The freezing of embryos, even when carried out to preserve the life of an embryo ... constitutes an offense against the respect due to human beings by exposing them to grave risks of death ... thus placing them in a situation in which further offenses and manipulation are possible," the document said.

In a July 31 statement, Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster, said, "We are in a moral cul-de-sac. All the so-called solutions to this dilemma have severe drawbacks and it is a question of finding the least worse."

"I believe that these frozen embryos are frozen human life and they should be dis-

posed of in a dignified manner. That is not necessarily the same as destroying them — in fact it is more akin to removing extraordinary means of preserving life," the cardinal said.

But Cardinal Hume's view was challenged by Scarisbrick of LIFE. He said the actions of the fertility clinics were killing the embryos.

"This is not just a case of letting them die," he said. "They have said some embryos will die as they are thawed out; the others that are living will then be immersed in a mixture of alcohol and water."

Scarisbrick also challenged the views of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority that nothing else could be done with the embryos without parental consent.

"Children are not possessions. Parents have some rights, but those rights are less than the right to life," he told Catholic News Service in a July 31 telephone interview.

"The authorities say adoption could only go ahead with parental consent. But in many cases, parents have not been given all the information about the possibility of adoption."

"In other cases the parents have not bothered to keep in touch. They have clearly lost all moral claim to these children."

## Bishops decry 'deeply flawed' welfare measure

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After urging President Clinton to veto the latest welfare reform measure because it "unfairly targets hungry children and legal immigrants," the U.S. Catholic bishops decried his decision to sign a bill they said is "deeply flawed."

"This legislation may meet the needs of politicians, but fails too many poor children," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy, in a statement issued July 31 in Washington after Clinton announced his decision.

In a statement issued Aug. 1, Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York said the current legislation, although it contains "much that is positive," fails the test of "creative generosity" articulated by Pope John Paul II during his U.S. visit last year.

The legislation, which the House approved 328-101 the same day, passed in the Senate Aug. 1 by a vote of 78-21.

## CALENDAR

### All Diocesan

#### Religious Activities

■ **WED, AUG 14** — Resurrection deadline: for Mass on Sun. Aug. 18, celebrating Catholic Golden Age Spiritual Advisor Father John A. Poluikis' 40-plus years at St. John Fisher College; 11:30 a.m.; brunch following at Elaine Wilson Lounge, \$8.50 per person; for more information call Irene, 716/467-3398.

■ **TUE, AUG 13** — Registration deadline: for Sept. 22 Wedding Jubilee Mass at St. Michael's Church, Newark; 2 p.m.; Bishop Matthew H. Clark, presider; open to all couples married 25 years or more; to receive invitation, send name and address to Sylvia Mancuso, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624, or call her at 716/328-3210 ext. 295, or 800/388-7177.

#### Social Activities

■ **SAT, AUG 10** — Performance: by Bishop Kearney High School Performance Ensemble; Galleria Mall, Buffalo (across from Sears); noon; nine dance selections and five color guard displays; free.

### Chemung Schuyler

#### Religious Activities

■ **FRI, AUG 9** — Charismatic Mass: followed by healing and prayer needs; St. Cecilia's Church, 954 Lake St., Elmira; 7:30 p.m.; for more information call 607/734-1622.

#### Social Activities

■ **SAT, AUG 10** — Dinner and talk: featuring racing legend Bobby Allison; 6:30 p.m.; St. Mary's Community Center, Tenth Street, Watkins Glen; buffet dinner; 200 tickets available; \$15 per person, \$7 for children under 12; part of parish's 150th anniversary celebrations; for more information, call 607/535-2786.

### Livingston County

#### Religious Activities

■ **THU, AUG 8** — Charismatic healing Mass: sponsored by the Mt. Morris St. Patrick's Prayer Group at St. Patrick's Church, 46 Stanley St., Mt. Morris; 7 p.m.; for more information call 716/658-3471 or 716/658-3413.

### Monroe County

#### Fundraisers

■ **AUG 9-10** — Garage sale: and spaghetti supper (Friday); to benefit The American Boychoir Christmas Concert; Salem United Church of Christ, 60 Bittner St., Rochester; Fri. 2-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-3p.m.; tickets for dinner may be purchased at the door; \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12.

■ **SAT, AUG 10** — Euchre tournament: and spaghetti supper; to benefit Alternatives for Battered Women, at Church of the Master, 3495 Lake Ave., Rochester; dinner 5 p.m.; \$5; euchre tournament 6:30 p.m.; \$5; for more information call

716/663-1213.

■ **AUG 15-17** — Musical comedy: "Little Shop of Horrors," presented by CURE SummerStage 1996; Mercy High School Auditorium, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; Thu.-Sat., 8 p.m., also Sat., 2 p.m.; \$7 adults, \$5 students & seniors; proceeds to benefit CURE Childhood Cancer Association; for information call Matthew, 716/385-2924.

#### Religious Activities

■ **SUN, AUG 11** — German Mass: at St. Theodore's Church, 168 Spencerport Road, Rochester; 2 p.m.; as part of German-American Summer Festival.

■ **MON, AUG 12** — Charismatic Mass: at Christ the King Church, 445 King's Highway South, Rochester; 7:30 p.m.

■ **TUE, AUG 13** — Divine Mercy Devotion: St. Rita's Church, 1008 Maple Dr., Webster; 7:30-8:30 p.m.; all welcome; call Barb, 716/671-5275.

■ **THU, AUG 15** — Evening of prayer: sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7:30-9 p.m. for those touched by HIV/AIDS.

■ **FRI, AUG 16** — Renewal: in the Spirit & Secular Franciscans; sponsored by St. Patrick's Fraternity — Secular Franciscan Order; St. Charles Borromeo Prayer Center, 3011 Dewey Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m., for more information call 716/225-4134.

#### Social Activities

■ **AUG 8-10** — Festival: at Holy Cross Church, 4492 Lake Ave., Rochester; 6 p.m.-midnight each night; chicken barbecue each night 6-8 p.m., other foods; children's rides, games, bingo Thurs., DJ on Fri.; for more information call Jody, 716/865-6249.

■ **AUG 8-11** — Play: "Baptized in Love"; at Freddie Thomas Foundation, 1180 E. Main St., Rochester; Thurs. dinner and play at 6:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat. play at 7 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m.; tickets \$10, \$7 for seniors, \$4 children; call Michaelangelo Productions Inc., 716/342-1562.

■ **FRI, AUG 9** — TGIF: with St. Louis Church Single Adult Ministry; Richardson's Canal House Inn, 1474 Marsh Rd., Bushnell's Basin, Pittsford; 5-7 p.m.

■ **AUG 9-10** — Summerfest '96: by Webster Knights of Columbus; Webster Columbus Center, 70 Barrett Dr., Webster; Fri. 6 p.m.-1 a.m., Sat. 1 p.m.-1 a.m.; family games, food, music; free admission.

■ **AUG 9-11** — German-American Summer Festival: German Cultural Center, Karl Fuchs Drive, Rochester; begins at 5 p.m. Fri., 1 p.m. Sat. and Sun.

■ **SAT, AUG 10** — Miniature Golf: with St. Thomas More Singles Club; Putt Putt, 3340 W. Ridge Road, Greece; 7 p.m.; for more information call Anne, 716/482-5656.

■ **SUN, AUG 11** — Day at Hamlin Beach: with St. Thomas More Singles Club; for details call Anne, 716/482-5656.

■ **SUN, AUG 18** — Festival: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 1080 Joseph Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; American & Spanish food, raffles, activities for children; for more information call the rectory, 716/467-2725.

■ **SUN, AUG 18** — Picnic: sponsored by Renewal in the Spirit & Secular Franciscans; German Cultural Center, 150 Spencerport Road, Karl Fuchs Drive, Gates Memorial Park, Rochester; 1-5 p.m., bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair; R.S.V.P. Lorraine, 716/594-5694.

#### Sports Benefits

■ **SAT, AUG 10** — Golf tournament: to benefit Irish Children's Program; Marvin's Country Club, 1148 S. Wayneport Rd., Macedon; for reservations or information call Randy, 716/223-1393.

■ **MON, AUG 19** — Golf tourney: to benefit Mt. Carmel Parish; at Winged Pheasant Golf Links; call James, 716/288-9932.

### Seneca Cayuga

#### Meetings

■ **AUG 13-14** — Book discussion: "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peek, Tues., Part I, Wed., Part II; Sacred Heart/St. Ann's parishes sponsoring informal coffee break book discussions; Sacred Heart Church, 90 Melrose Road, Auburn; 9 a.m.; outside if weather permits; refreshments provided; for more information call Dr. Marjinsky, 315/253-2712.

### Yates Ontario Wayne

#### Meetings

■ **WED, AUG 14** — Breakfast: with the Ontario County D/S/B Group; Denny's Restaurant, Route 5 & 20, Geneva; 9 a.m.; for further information call Betty, 716/526-5465.

#### Fundraisers

■ **AUG 15-16** — Lawn Sale: St. Mary's Church parking lot, 16 Gibson St., Canandaigua; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; for more information call Jennifer, 716/394-1220.