

# Debate will continue on stem-cell research

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Days after President Bush's decision to authorize federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research only on existing cell lines, the debate promised to continue in the courts, in Congress and in Catholic and pro-life circles.

Meanwhile, the real work was beginning at the National Institutes of Health, where a registry of the approximately 60 existing stem-cell lines worldwide was being prepared for publication early next year.

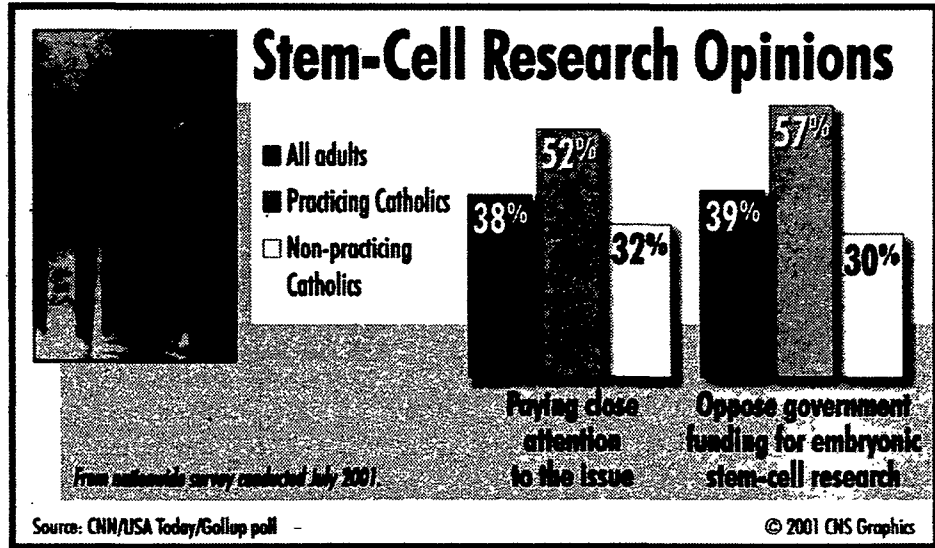
In his weekly radio address Aug. 11, Bush said the issue of embryonic stem-cell research "lies at a difficult moral intersection, juxtaposing the need to protect life in

all its phases with the prospect of saving and improving life in all its stages."

Catholic reaction to Bush's decision reflected that difficult intersection, ranging from moral outrage to guarded approval. Some praised Bush for refusing to allow the killing of human embryos for future research, while others said it was morally unacceptable for scientists to experiment with existing stem-cell lines that had been obtained from embryos.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark stated, "The decision of President Bush to limit federal research funding to existing human embryonic stem cell lines, with assurances that no additional human embryos will be destroyed, is positive. Sadly, it in no way mitigates the tragic and morally un-

Continued on page 4



# Catholic Courier

DIocese OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 112 NO. 45 ■ THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2001 ■ 75¢ ■ 24 PAGES

## Inside This Week



**Dominican teens forced to cancel**  
Visa troubles affect programs in diocese  
— Page 3

**Works of Love gets jump-start**  
Class points the way for diocesan project  
— Page 8



**Teachers focus all on goal of life**  
Many follow hearts, find value in careers  
— Page 5



Shari and John List of Church of the Epiphany in Sodus are among families who will receive aid for their children's Catholic educations from a \$15 million Finger Lakes grant. (From left) Hugh, 15, Mary, 8, Rose, 10, Sara, 9, Erin, 18, and John, 17, have attended St. Michael's in Newark and De Sales High School in Geneva. Erin will enter the University of Rochester this fall.

# \$15M

STORY BY  
ROB CULLIVAN

PHOTO BY  
ANDREA DIXON

As Kathy Peters told it, a massive grant to Catholic schools in the Finger Lakes may have roots in prayers inspired by her meeting the famed relief pitcher for the New York Mets, Tug McGraw.

In the late 1960s, McGraw met Peters, the future principal of St. Michael's School, Newark, when he happened to be in Buffalo where she then lived, and asked her out, she said. After sharing lunch, the two corresponded for a while, but eventually fell out of touch, she said.

McGraw later authored the Mets slogan for its 1973 National League Championship season — "Ya Gotta Believe!" In the 1990s, Peters, by this time married with children, wrote McGraw and asked him if he'd be willing to donate money to DeSales High School, Geneva, which three of her children attended. Maybe the school could adopt his slogan as its own, she suggested to him. McGraw never did respond, she said, but Peters kept hoping and praying that someone would make a major league donation to DeSales.

Her wishes have come true as her favorite Catholic high school has hit two home runs in the past two years: In 1999, the school received \$1 million from an anonymous donor, and last February, DeSales announced that a group of nine anonymous donors — including the original million-dollar donor — had given \$5 million to DeSales.

Additionally, the donors gave \$10 million dollars to Peters' school,

as well as the schools of St. Mary's, Waterloo; St. Mary's Canandaigua; St. Francis DeSales/St. Stephen, Geneva; St. Michael's, Penn Yan; and St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls. The grant money came with certain stipulations as to how it should be used, although each school was given some flexibility.

The six Finger Lakes area elementary schools feed graduates into DeSales, and the donors indicated they wanted to strengthen the schools in order to encourage more enrollment at the high school. The feeder schools responded to that wish by partly using the donor funds to give tuition discounts at their individual schools to families with children at both DeSales and their own schools.

The \$15 million gift was the second largest single donation in the history of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester, only behind a \$25 million grant given a group of inner-city Rochester Catholic schools in 1995 by supermarket chain founder Robert Wegman and his wife, Peggy. Diocesan officials also believe the Finger Lakes grant may be among the 10 largest gifts ever given to Catholic schools in U.S. history.

"It was an answer to 15 years of prayers," Peters said with a smile.

### Watershed moment

DeSales has used its gifts primarily to fund an endowment financing efforts to make DeSales "the very best (school) in the Fin-

Continued on page 24