

# WORLD & NATION

## Stem cells

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ceptable loss of human life in the form of the embryos previously destroyed in privately funded research.

"As is the case with other advances in medicine and science, we must continue to protect human life at any stage, from conception to death, and recognize as immoral any attempt to deliberately destroy it," the bishop stated. He said that stem cell research promises "great good" but must be pursued ethically.

A Vatican spokesman said he had no comment on Bush's decision. But in a statement last year condemning research on embryonic stem cells, the Pontifical Academy for Life explicitly ruled out the sort of compromise settled on by the U.S. leader.

The academy said it was immoral for scientists to use embryonic stem cells even if the scientists were not involved in removing them from the embryo. Doing so involves "a close material cooperation in the production and manipulation of human embryos," it said.

Human Life Advocates, a nonprofit group that had sued the federal government to stop embryonic stem-cell research, said it would press forward with a lawsuit against the Bush decision.

"To grant federal funds for research even for those 60 stem lines already harvested violates federal law," said Samuel B. Casey, senior staff counsel for the group. "We are going to argue that those 60 stem-cell lines require the destruction of embryos, which is a violation of the law."

But those who do not think Bush went far enough pledged to continue the fight in Congress.

"I intend to press for an early Senate vote on my bill to allow federal funding to extract stem cells from embryos destined for destruction," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called the Bush decision "morally unacceptable" and prayed the president would "return to a principled stand against treating some hu-



Leslie Kossoff/CNS

**Father Peter West of Priests for Life in Staten Island, N.Y., joins a small group of protesters outside the White House Aug. 1 to call on President George W. Bush to support medical research involving adult stem cells, not those obtained from human embryos.**

man lives as nothing more than objects to be manipulated and destroyed for research purposes."

And Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston said, "While I applaud him for setting limits, the line which he has drawn is going to be very difficult to maintain, judging from the comments of politicians calling for no limits and of scientists who question whether 60 stem-cell lines are sufficient."

"It is because maintaining his position will be so difficult in today's cultural cli-

mate that I regret the president's decision to allow federal funding for experimentation on existing embryonic stem-cell lines," he said.

In his nationally televised address from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, Bush also announced his strong opposition to human cloning, his support for "aggressive federal funding of research on umbilical cord, placenta, adult and animal stem cells" and his plans to establish a president's council on bioethics headed by

Leon Kass, a biomedical ethicist from the University of Chicago.

A survey released shortly before Bush's decision was announced showed that Catholics who attend Mass weekly were more likely than the general population to follow the debate over embryonic stem-cell research very or somewhat closely and more likely to oppose such research.

The nationwide poll conducted in July and made public in August found that 57 percent of adult Americans who are "practicing Catholics" opposed government funding for embryonic stem-cell research, compared to 39 percent of all Americans and 30 percent of "nonpracticing Catholics."

In the CNN/USA Today/Gallup survey, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, 52 percent of practicing Catholics said they had followed the stem-cell debate "very closely" or "somewhat closely," compared to 32 percent of nonpracticing Catholics and 38 percent of the general population.

Asked to summarize their moral view on embryonic stem-cell research, 20 percent said it was morally wrong and unnecessary; 34 percent said it was morally wrong but may be necessary; 35 percent said it was not morally wrong and may be necessary; 4 percent said it was not morally wrong but is unnecessary; and 7 percent had no opinion.

The survey did not address the issue of adult stem-cell research, which Catholic leaders have been promoting as an alternative to embryonic stem-cell research.

## Vatican says married Archbishop Milingo to reconcile

By John Norton  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican said Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo, who married in a ceremony performed by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon three months ago, has decided to reconcile with the Catholic Church. But three days later the archbishop's 43-year-old Korean wife announced that she had begun a fast until death unless she and her husband were reunited.

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, announced Archbishop Milingo's decision to reconcile with the church Aug. 11. "After the lamentable events of which he was a protagonist, he has decided to spend a period of reflection and prayer in view of his full reconciliation," the spokesman said.

Within hours of the announcement, officials of Rev. Moon's movement launched what they described on their Web site as a "life-and-death war with a formidable, powerful enemy," saying the archbishop was being held "captive" by the Vatican.

The archbishop's wife, Maria Sung, said Aug. 14 that she had begun a fast and

would continue until death unless Archbishop Milingo resumed married life with her. Previously, she had threatened to fast only until she was allowed to see him.

She also had said earlier she might be pregnant with the archbishop's child, and she made media-swamped visits to St. Peter's Basilica to pray for his return.

Father Benedettini, who said he was relaying information from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, did not indicate how long the 71-year-old former Vatican official was expected to stay in seclusion.

"Maria Sung's feelings deserve respect, but so do the spiritual labors of Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo, who freely chose a period of reflection and prayer," the spokesman said.

He said the archbishop made the decision following his surprise meeting with Pope John Paul II Aug. 7, in which the pontiff "paternally called him back to his responsibilities toward God and toward the church."

At the time, the Vatican said the meeting effectively suspended the doctrinal congregation's July excommunication warning to the archbishop.

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