

## BISHOP ANNOUNCES PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following pastoral leadership appointments effective June 24:

• **Sister Joan Sobala, SSJ**, to pastoral administrator, St. Felix Clifton Springs/St. Francis Phelps. Sister Sobala is currently on the central administration team for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

• **Father Dennis Sewar** to pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport, from pastor, Church of the Annunciation, Rochester.

• **Deacon Raymond DeFendorf** to pastoral administrator, St. Mary, Bath, from pastoral administrator, St. James, Waverly and St. Pius X, Van Etten.

• **Sister Doreen Glynn, CSJ** to pastoral administrator, St. Mary of the Lake, Ontario, from pastoral associate, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport.

• **Father William Moorby** from pastor of St. Francis in Catawunk, St. John the Evangelist in Newark Valley, and St. Patrick in Owego, to pastor of these three parishes as well as St. James, Waverly; St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin; and St. Pius X, Van Etten.

• **Michele Bertot** to pastoral administrator, Holy Name of Jesus, Greece, from pastoral associate at that parish.

## RELIGIOSITY HELPS KIDS STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new study indicates that religiosity serves as a buffering agent for adolescents that keeps them away from tobacco, alcohol and drug use.

"Those adolescents who viewed religion as a meaningful part of their life and a way to cope with problems were half as likely to use drugs than (were) adolescents who didn't view religion as important," the study said.

The study was published in the March issue of the journal *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. The study's results were comparable for students in grades seven through 10, the grades involved in the study, and among ethnic types, although Caucasians did not score quite as high as African-Americans and Hispanics.

# Conference condemns bill

## Leaders say legislation would enshrine killing

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

The New York state Assembly has passed legislation that would permit the cloning of human beings so long as the intent was to kill any resulting child, according to the New York State Catholic Conference.

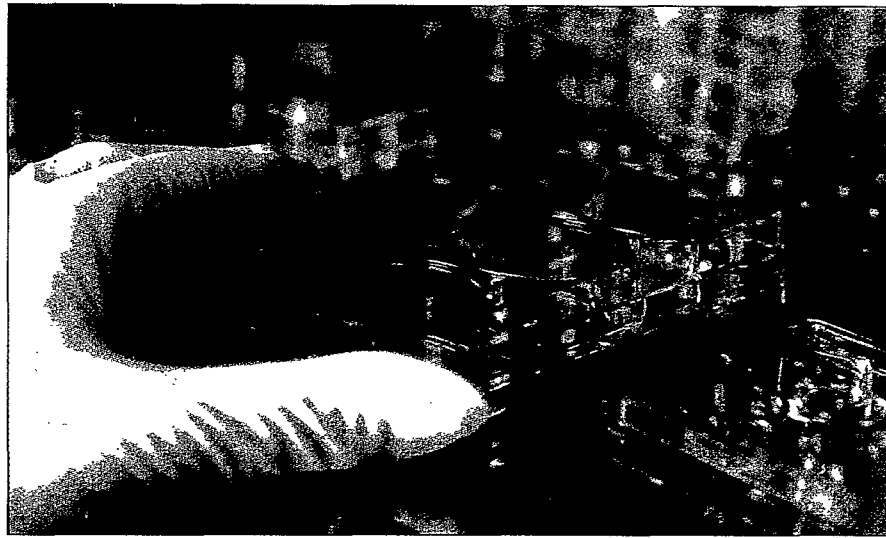
On March 19, the Assembly passed the bill (A.6249-A), which bans the cloning of humans for reproductive purposes, but allows cloning for "therapeutic" and "research" purposes. Essentially, the bill would allow scientists to create embryos to provide stem cells that could be used in the treatment and prevention of such diseases as diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, bill supporters said.

In a statement released the day the bill was passed, Richard E. Barnes, executive director of the Catholic conference, called the bill "a moral outrage," and said its supporters had gained passage by using "deceptive arguments" and referring to the bill as a cloning ban.

"Should this dangerous bill become law, New York state would be explicitly permitting and promoting the creation of human life for the express purpose of being killed to serve the needs of others," Barnes said. "According to the language of the bill, doctors in New York state could clone human beings, grow them in women's wombs or in a laboratory and then kill them for the harvesting of their stem cells. The only 'ban' is that the babies created through cloning would be prohibited by law from being born."

Kathleen Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the conference, shared Barnes' outrage, saying in the statement that the bill "promotes two wrongs, cloning and killing."

"Is government fostering a civilized society when it allows some members of the human family to ex-



University of Wisconsin/CNS

A researcher handles culture trays containing human embryonic stem cells in a lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. New York's Assembly has approved a bill allowing cloning for therapeutic and research purposes.

exploit others for profit or scientific gain and where some human lives are treated as products manufactured solely for the usefulness of others?" she asked.

Actor Christopher Reeve of "Superman" movie fame quickly gave his support to the Assembly bill through a statement posted March 19 on the Web site of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a proponent of the therapeutic cloning bill. Paralyzed by spinal-cord injuries from a horse-riding accident several years ago, Reeve has been a strong advocate of embryonic stem-cell research.

"As a resident of New York state and speaking on behalf of countless others suffering from diseases and disabilities, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Assembly for passing legislation that will allow scientists to unlock the potential of ... therapeutic cloning," Reeve said.

However, Barnes' statement responded to the argument that the suffering of those with chronic illnesses is justification for therapeutic cloning.

"We sympathize with those who

suffer illnesses or disabilities that can be potentially aided by stem-cell research," he said. "But nothing can justify the creation and killing of human beings for the purpose of possibly curing other human beings."

Dennis Poust, spokesman for the state Catholic conference, told the *Catholic Courier* that the cloning bill has "chilling" implications for creating some humans for the benefit of others. He added that the conference supports Senate bill S00206 that would ban all cloning, and urged Catholics to write to their legislators in support of this legislation.

"The Catholic Church teaches that cloning fails to respect the dignity of human life, insults the natural process of human procreation and reduces the precious gift of human life to a commodity," the conference said in its statement. "The church also supports experimentation using adult stem cells, which do not require the creation or destruction of human life. Adult stem cell research has yielded extremely encouraging results in treatment for Parkinson's disease, diabetes and spinal cord repair."

## USCCB official urges total ban on human cloning

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the Senate to totally ban human cloning by backing a bill sponsored by Sens. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Mary Landrieu, D-La.

A rival bill would allow the production of cloned embryos for scientific research or other purposes, said Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the bishops' Secretariat for

Pro-Life Activities. He praised the Brownback-Landrieu bill, which would ban the production of cloned embryos for any purpose.

The rival bill, sponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., would only prohibit a cloned embryo from being implanted in a womb so that a baby could be born, Doerflinger said.

Doerflinger praised the Brownback-Landrieu bill because it bans

human cloning based on a scientific and accurate definition. The bill would penalize those engaged in cloning, and would ban shipping, receiving or importing of cloned embryos, he said.

In February the House of Representatives passed a bill supported by the USCCB that would ban all human cloning. President Bush has said he would sign a bill that would prohibit all human cloning.