

## DIOCESE SEEKS TO STOP CLONING BILL

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — The Diocese of Wilmington is launching a major effort to enlist Delaware residents to defeat a state bill that would permit the cloning of human embryos for use in biomedical and agricultural research.

The bill would prohibit the use of embryos for human reproductive use but would allow the embryos — which the church considers human beings — to be cloned in a laboratory and kept until scientists wanted to destroy them to extract their stem cells for research.

## BILLBOARD WITH IMAGE OF MARY REMOVED

EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) — A billboard promoting vegetarianism by using an image of the Blessed Mother with a dead chicken beside the words: "Go Vegetarian. It's an Immaculate Conception" was removed Dec. 5 from an East Providence site following negative reaction from community and religious leaders.

The advertisement was bought by the national animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, after Vegan Outreach, a program within the national group, initiated the campaign. The ad was vandalized at least twice, with someone writing "Shame" on it, and someone else subsequently writing "Shame on eating animals."

Officials from the billboard company expressed concern that anyone trying to deface the ad further might be injured and hold the company liable.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sun., Dec. 14: Zephaniah 3:14-18A; (Ps) Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

Mon., Dec. 15: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17A; Psalms 25:4-9; Matthew 21:23-27

Tue., Dec. 16: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalms 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Matthew 21:28-32

Wed., Dec. 17: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalms 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17

Thu., Dec. 18: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalms 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25

Fri., Dec. 19: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25A; Psalms 71:3-6, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25

Sat., Dec. 20: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalms 24:1-6; Luke 1:26-38

# Land sale to pay for lawsuit

## Boston promises not to use parish funds

Meghan Dorney/CNS

BOSTON — In keeping with its promise not to use parish, appeal or capital campaign funds to finance a record \$85 million sexual-abuse settlement, the Archdiocese of Boston announced Dec. 3 that it would use insurance money and sell a portion of church property to pay for the settlement.

The archdiocese plans to sell approximately 28 acres of land, about half the area it owns in Brighton. Nine acres of the parcel are connected with the residence that housed the heads of the Boston Archdiocese for 75 years; 19 acres are underutilized property belonging to St. John's Seminary.

"I did not want to have to use parish funds, parish properties, or other diocesan agencies" to pay for the settlement, Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley told *The Pilot*, Boston's archdiocesan newspaper.

The residence, he said, has a "great historical and sentimental value," but is the only large parcel of land that the archdiocese has. While he "would have preferred to have another solution," he said, he feels that it is "very important for the archdiocese to step up to the plate and make whatever sacrifice is necessary to bring about a settlement and thus further the process of healing and reconciliation in the archdiocese."

The archdiocese decided to sell



Gregory L. Tracy/CNS

Property surrounding St. John's Seminary in Boston is going on the market to help pay a portion of the Boston Archdiocese's \$85 million clergy sexual-abuse settlement. About 28 acres of the archdiocese's property in Brighton will be sold including the former residence of the archbishop.

this land, "rather than to go into debt permanently or divert monies that could be used for Catholic education or the ministries of the archdiocese in the parishes," said the archbishop, who, when he became head of the Boston Archdiocese, chose to live in the rectory of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

He added that the land and the buildings are not "essential for us to be able to carry on the mission of the archdiocese."

Father Christopher Coyne, spokesman for the archdiocese, said while the archdiocese would like to

get the "best return" possible from the sale of the property, considerations other than money will be taken into account when selecting a buyer.

"We're not just going to sell the property to the highest bidder," he said. "Other factors need to be weighed as well — what the buyer intends to do with the property, the past history of the company or the buyer, how it will impact the neighborhood, how will it impact the chancery and the seminary."

Contributing to this story was Antonio Enrique.

# Capital campaign reaches goal

The Diocese of Rochester announced Dec. 10 that its Partners in Faith capital campaign has exceeded its \$50 million goal and continues to raise funds.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark expressed gratitude to those who have pledged to the campaign thus far, and urged those who have not contributed to help continue the campaign's momentum.

"It is fitting that as we approach Christmas, this time of generosity and goodwill, that we should achieve an historic record in diocesan fundraising locally by exceeding \$50 million — before the campaign even is completed," Bishop Clark said. "This truly is a remarkable achievement. I am very grateful to all who have given gifts large and small, and encourage others now to help us reach even higher as the campaign continues. Join us in this astonishing

display of spirit and generosity. We are not done as yet, and every dollar raised will help us plan and provide for the future."

Launched in April of this year, the campaign is parish-based, meaning that diocesan parishes had individual campaign goals and that half of the money they raise will be returned to the parishes. Several parishes are still conducting their campaigns, and 14 others are preparing to start drives that will continue through March 2004.

Out of its share of campaign proceeds, the diocese will fund endowments for Catholic schools, Catholic Charities and faith formation. Proceeds also will be used to enhance the priests' pension fund, provide for such capital projects as the renovation of Sacred Heart Cathedral and construction of the new Pittsford campus for St. Bernard's School of

Theology and Ministry.

The diocese announced that many individual parishes — including Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish — had exceeded their goals, and that four parishes raised more than \$1 million each. The campaign netted several five- and six-figure gifts, as well as one pledge for \$2.5 million. More than 25,000 households in the diocese have contributed to the campaign so far.

"I believe the campaign's name says it all," Bishop Clark said. "Roman Catholics truly feel they are partners in the many ministries that help our children, assist the needy and those who are disadvantaged, strengthen families, provide care for the elderly, build and bolster the local church. And we so generously support this work as a matter of faith, in our God, our local church and our community."