

A Declaration on the Sanctity of Human Life

House of Bishops, February 27, 2002

God alone has absolute dominion over human life, and over the process by which it comes into being. The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of fertilization, that is, the union of an ovum and sperm. The respect and protection of ALL innocent human life is necessary for the establishment and maintenance of a moral civilization.

The Church has the duty and the obligation to proclaim to all the earth the sanctity of human life, the dignity of human life, and respect for human life.

- **Human life begins at conception and ends with natural death.**
- **The deliberate destruction of innocent persons, preborn or born, through all forms of direct abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or any other means is considered to be unethical, immoral, evil and sinful.**

Therefore, we affirm that no government has the right to alter the law of God.

- **Any legislation by any government that demeans or goes contrary to the law of God concerning the sanctity of life is immoral.**
- **We affirm the teaching of Holy Scripture and the tradition of the church throughout the centuries that God is the giver of life and thus human life belongs to Him.**

We affirm that the destruction of the human embryo, as an end or a means, such as embryonic stem cell research, is unethical, immoral, intrinsically evil, and sinful. The artificial creation of human life through cloning is also unethical, immoral, intrinsically evil, and sinful.

We affirm that this declaration on the sanctity of human life, which is rooted in the teaching of the church and the Holy Scriptures, is not in conflict with good and moral science.

A Canon on the Sanctity of Life has been developed for the ICCEC.

CEC For Life Board

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