



Dear friends,

Having confirmed the safety of vaccines last week, we move to the question of the morality of taking vaccines - particularly those that have ties to fetal stem cells obtained from abortion. Again we find that the Church upholds our freedom to use these vaccines without fear that we are cooperating in or supporting voluntary abortion. In short, **we may use these vaccines.**

“The technical characteristics of the production of the vaccines most commonly used in childhood lead us to exclude that there is a morally relevant cooperation between those who use these vaccines today and the practice of voluntary abortion. Hence, we believe that all clinically recommended vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience and that the use of such vaccines does not signify some sort of cooperation with voluntary abortion.”

- *Note on Italian vaccine issue*, Pontifical Academy for Life

Even as the Church testifies to this freedom - and in fact, affirms our moral responsibility to take vaccines for the safety of those around us - we are reminded that “there remains a moral duty to continue to fight and to employ every lawful means in order to make life difficult for the pharmaceutical industries which act unscrupulously and unethically” (*Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses*). As Christians we carry a grave responsibility to call for an end to the use of the fetal stem cell lines obtained from voluntary abortions.

We find the key to *why* we may use these vaccines in the Church’s teaching in *Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses* in the section titled “The Principle of Licit Cooperation in Evil”. We are reminded that using these vaccines constitutes remote (far away or long ago) mediate (many steps separated) material (not sharing the evil intent) cooperation. As such, using vaccines is morally permissible without fear that we are voluntarily supporting evil.

As we renew our commitment to promoting the good of human life, may we ask the Lord to give us the courage and fortitude to call for greater respect for life in all areas of society and science.

- Father Maurer

Reference documents

Dignitatis Personae (On Certain Bioethical Questions), Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, 2008 - https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20081208_dignitas-personae_en.html

Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2005 [https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/\\$FILE/ncbq_2006_0006_0003_0145_0154.pdf](https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/$FILE/ncbq_2006_0006_0003_0145_0154.pdf)

Note on Italian vaccine issue, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2017 <http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/the-academy/activity-academy/note-vaccini.html>