



A message to the faithful of the archdiocese from Archbishop Michael Jackels

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Further Guidance on Vaccinations

The US Bishops' Conference recently stated Catholics may in good conscience use the Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines, even though they were tested using cell lines from tissue derived from a procured abortion.

A week later, the Vatican office for the Doctrine of the Faith, with approval from our Holy Father Pope Francis, issued a statement on the same topic to offer further moral guidance, as well as to correct remarks made by some Catholic sources.

- 1) The use of vaccines developed from cell lines of tissue harvested from a procured abortion *does not* constitute a sinful cooperation in the evil of abortion.
- 2) Catholics may in good conscience use *any* of the COVID vaccines, even if developed using cell lines from an abortion, if there are no alternative vaccines available.
- 3) In the face of a grave danger to their own health, or to the common good of public health, Catholics are *not* obliged to refuse those vaccines developed from cell lines of tissue harvested from a procured abortion.

For your information, the Catholic Church does not provide for a *religious* exemption to civil laws requiring vaccination, even if abortion is part of the equation in the development or production of a vaccine.

In fact, Catholic teaching on care for life and on the common good strongly supports vaccination against threats to life and health, like measles, mumps, rubella, and the coronavirus.

Whoever refuses vaccination for reasons of conscience has as a consequence a serious moral duty to do everything possible to avoid spreading disease to those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Archbishop Michael Jackels

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