It must be understood that human cloning – whether therapeutic or reproductive – is the **artificial creation** in a laboratory of a new human being. For the following mentioned reasons, human cloning is a grave offense to the intrinsic dignity of the human individual, the human family and even society at large.

**From the “Catechism of the Catholic Church”:**

2270 Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life.

2274 Since he must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in his integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being.

2275 One must hold as licit procedures carried out on the human embryo which respect the life and integrity of the embryo and do not involve disproportionate risks for him, but are directed toward his healing, the improvement of his condition of health, or his individual survival. It is immoral to produce human embryos intended for exploitation as disposable biological material.

**How You Can Make a Difference**

It is therefore imperative that human cloning in all its forms be outlawed. Even scientists who do not share the Church’s moral perspective recognize that any current attempt at human cloning would be a wasteful and irresponsible gamble with human lives; trying this experiment in humans would produce many innocent victims.

Already last year the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill prohibiting human cloning. Also, President Bush has declared himself against human cloning.

So now it is up to the one hundred U.S. Senators to decide, hopefully, representing us.

Presently, about 45 senators are against human cloning, 45 are in favor, and ten are undecided. Our predicament is that the Senate may decide not to legislate on human cloning. This means, in practice, that it remains legal, and we lose the battle by default. Therefore, what is now needed is a nationwide **moratorium** on human cloning, which would give Congress the necessary time to debate a permanent policy and allow scientists to fully explore the morally acceptable alternatives to human cloning for medical research.

Specifically, every individual needs to write to his or her U.S. Senator, stating that as a resident of Florida and a U.S. citizen you are **absolutely against all forms of human cloning** and that you expect your Senator to represent you well on this vital issue. Always sign your letter by hand, include your mailing address, and end your letter “waiting to hear from you soon.” If you do not hear from him or her soon, write the next letter, and then the next one, until you do. If you still get no response, call or better yet, go in person to the local office of your U.S. Senators, with copies of all your letters and your voter’s registration card in hand.

The ultimate fate of human cloning will likely come through an act or inaction by Congress. If human cloning is legalized, this time, the citizenry cannot claim innocence. We will all be guilty by omission. **Therefore, we need to act, and we need to act now.**

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“It is immoral to produce human embryos intended for exploitation as disposable biological material.”
Presently, some scientists and politicians are talking about the distinction between “reproductive cloning” and “therapeutic cloning.” In reproductive cloning, the embryo is implanted into the womb of a woman and allowed to grow to full term, resulting in a live baby. In therapeutic cloning, the embryo is grown in a petri dish in the lab for about a week and then dismembered to obtain stem cells. The distinction between these two types of cloning is a biotechnical distinction without a moral difference; both are a crass manipulation of the intrinsic dignity of human life. Even though the Catholic Church is thoroughly opposed to both types of cloning, therapeutic cloning in a sense is even more gruesome, because it creates a new human life only to destroy him or her. Some legislation proposed as a ban on “reproductive cloning” is really only a ban on allowing any cloned embryo to be born alive. This approach, which creates a mandate to destroy the resulting human embryos, is doubly wrong.

Fortunately, God has provided alternatives to human cloning and embryonic stem cells. Stem cells taken from consenting adults, and even from umbilical cords and the placenta, have the potential to provide new tissues for therapeutic use, but without any destruction of human life. The Catholic Church has no objection to research involving these alternative ways of procuring human stem cells, as long as proper informed consent has been obtained. New cures for disease can be pursued with these methods.