

**From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Statement on Moral Concerns about the Creation of a Vaccine for COVID-19**

*The world is currently facing a health crisis. The number of deaths from COVID-19 is now almost one and a half million worldwide. In the United States, the toll is approaching 300,000. Given the urgency of this crisis, the lack of available alternative vaccines, and **the fact that the connection between an abortion that occurred decades ago and receiving a vaccine produced today is remote, inoculation with the new COVID-19 vaccines in these circumstances can be morally justified.** For our part, we bishops and all Catholics and men and women of good will must continue to do what we can to ensure the development, production, and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine without any connection to abortion and to help change what has become the standard practice in much medical research, a practice in which certain morally compromised cell lines are routinely used as a matter of course, with no consideration of the moral question concerning the origins of those cell lines.*

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Chairman, Committee on Doctrine Chairman

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas
Committee on Pro-Life Activities

The above is the conclusion to a longer presentation.

In the document the Bishops also say:

In addition, receiving the COVID-19 vaccine ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community.¹⁰ In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.... A CAUTION AGAINST COMPLACENCY: While having ourselves and our families immunized against COVID-19 with the new vaccines is morally permissible and can be an act of self-love and of charity toward others, we must not allow the gravely immoral nature of abortion to be obscured.... With this in mind, we should be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research.

***Fr. Joseph Bayne, OFM Conv.
Rector/Pastor***