



NEWSLETTER



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SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 <i>NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9	10 <i>KOLACHE FESTIVAL CALDWELL</i>
11	12 <i>MEETING ROCKDALE 7:00 PM</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <i>FALL BEGINS</i>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NEWS

Our condolences go out to David Jimenez and family, on the recent loss of his wife. David is a member of St. Ann's Church in Somerville. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our next meeting will be held in Rockdale at the KC Hall. Supper will be served at 7 PM, followed by our meeting.

Holy Rosary Parish in Frenstat will be having their annual Festival on Sunday, Oct.2. Make plans to be there for some good food and entertainment.

Our 2016 Fall Exemplification is set for October 15, at the St. Paul Chong Hasang Parish in Harker Heights. Registration is on Friday from 4 to 6 pm, and again at 9:30 am on Saturday, with the commencement of the Exemplification beginning at 10:00 am. If you know anyone who is interested in becoming a 4th Degree, contact Josiah Barrow, at the number listed at the top of this page.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here it is, 7:00 PM on Tuesday September 6, the day these Newsletters are supposed to be in the mail, and here I am, still trying to finish it up, so I can mail it out tomorrow. I thought about it around midnight last night, but I couldn't find the energy to get up and do it. Maybe someone will volunteer to take this job over, and I can have one less thing to worry about. I already have to designate certain days to worry about different things, so they don't all hit me at once. Guess I need to move the Newsletter up a few days, so I can get it out on time.

We have two big events in the coming months to make plans for. The first is the March for Religious Freedom, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, to be held on Saturday, November 12, 2016. The other is the Texas Rally for Life scheduled for January 28, 2017. Mark these dates on your calendar and do your best to be there when these take place. More detailed information will be added, as it comes available.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A CASE OF TOO MANY PEOPLE WITH TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

USCCB General Counsel Urges NIH not to Fund Unethical Human/Animal Chimera Research

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) submitted comments September 2 to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Science Policy on the proposed authorization of federally-funded human/animal chimera research. Comments objecting to that proposal were submitted by Anthony Picarello, USCCB associate general secretary and general counsel, and Michael Moses, associate general counsel.

The comments outlined the USCCB's objections to the newly-proposed research guidelines: "the bottom line is that the Federal government will begin expending taxpayer dollars on the creation and manipulation of new beings whose very existence blurs the line between humanity and animals such as mice and rats. In doing so, the government is ignoring the fact that federally funded research of this kind is prohibited by Federal statute and is also grossly unethical."

Human/animal chimera research results in "beings who do not fully belong to either the human race or the host animal species."

"Herein lies the key moral problem involved in this proposal, beyond the already grave problem of exploiting human embryos as cell factories for research," they wrote. "For if one cannot tell to what extent, if any, the resulting organism may have human status or characteristics, it will be impossible to determine what one's moral obligations may be regarding that organism."

The comments noted that Catholic morality allows for "the respectful use of animals in research that can benefit humanity. But because of the unique dignity of the human person, there are limits to what can morally be done...."

They listed the ways in which chimera research violates ethical principles: "It relies on the destruction of human embryos; it contemplates producing entities with partly or wholly human brains (without any additional level of scrutiny in the case of rodents); and it allows for producing living entities who have human gametes (though researchers will be told to take precautions so these entities do not engage in 'breeding')."

"[T]he dignity and inviolability of human life at every stage of development is a foundational principle of any truly civilized society," they wrote. "The core ethical norms protecting human research subjects, affirmed in the Nuremberg Code and many subsequent documents, reflect this principle. The right not to be subjected to harmful experimentation without one's express and informed consent is an innate human right...."

The full text of the comment letter is available at: www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/rulemaking/upload/Comments-on-Human-Animal-Chimera-Research-Sept-16.pdf.

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