



The National Catholic Bioethics Center

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Bioethics and Public Policy Report [Click on Endnotes for More Information]

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The *National Scene*: British physiologist, Robert Edwards, has been awarded the 2010 *Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine* for his development of in vitro fertilization, which has resulted in the deaths of thousands of unborn children. Bishop Ignacio Carrasco de Paula, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life has said of this award: "Without Edwards, there would be no market for human eggs; without Edwards there would not be freezers full of embryos waiting to be transferred to a uterus, or, more likely, used for research or left to die, abandoned and forgotten about by all."¹

The State of *Conscience/Religious Liberty*: *Bishop William Lori* (Bridgeport) has issued a pastoral letter on religious freedom, *Let Freedom Ring*.² The Pastoral letter explores religious liberty as a God-given human right-- not as a grant from the state-- and the understanding of religion as a social good. Bishop Lori discusses recent challenges to the Church in Connecticut, and concludes by urging all Catholics to reflect on the issues of the day with respect to Catholic social teaching. • A U.S. District Court Judge granted a temporary injunction against a *Pittsburgh* ordinance that bans putting fliers on parked cars, restricting the free speech of advocates for life.³

The State of *Marriage*: The Third District Court of Appeal of *Florida* has ruled that the state's ban on adoption by homosexuals is unconstitutional.⁴ • Seven *Montana* homosexual partners are suing the state for domestic partner recognition. Montana has a constitutional protection for the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman.⁵

State by State: The *Connecticut Catholic Conference* has succeeded in demonstrating how effective *parental notification laws* are in protecting minors. Such laws do not exist in CT and the Conference successfully challenged the State Health Department to secure statistics that demonstrate this fact. For a full report see <http://www.ctcatholic.org/>.

Recent *Good News*: The 47 member *Council of Europe* adopted Resolution 1763 (2010) on "the right to conscientious objection in lawful medical care." This was a significant win over anti-conscience advocates in Europe.⁶

Sharing Your Good News and Your Efforts: If there are public policy advocacy strategies which you wish to share with others please e-mail mhilliard@ncbcenter.org.

Sharing of Resources: The web page of the National Catholic Bioethics Center is a significant resource in the realm of bioethics: www.ncbcenter.org. Also, bioethicists are on call twenty-four hours a day, every day of the week, for consultation by calling 215-877-2660.

¹ <http://www.lifenews.com/bio3192.html>.

² <http://www.bridgeportdiocese.com/welcome.shtml>.

³ <http://www.lifenews.com/state5543.html>.

⁴ <http://www.leagle.com/unsecure/page.htm?shortname=infco20100922000t>.

⁵ <http://instinctmagazine.com/blog/montana-gets-a-marriage-lawsuit>.

⁶ <http://www.christiannewswire.com/>.