



Dear friends,

Over the last year the world has waited with great anticipation as nations and companies work to develop a vaccine against COVID-19. With three promising candidates and others doubtlessly in the works, questions of the moral issues around vaccines have taken a prime spot in the hearts and conversations of many. Though often coming up in different ways, there are three core questions:

Using the guidelines released by the @PontAcadLife in 2005 and 2017 on the origin of vaccines, @TheCHAUSA ethicists, in collaboration with other Catholic bioethicists, find nothing morally prohibitive with the vaccines developed by @pfizer and @BioNTech_Group and @moderna_tx.
- the Pontifical Academy for Life (@PontAcadLife) posting at Twitter on November, 22, 2020)

- **Is it safe** to take vaccines?
- **May we take vaccines** that have been developed using fetal stem cells obtained from abortions?
- **Should** we take vaccines?

The answer to all three of these questions is a solid 'yes'. Yes, vaccines are safe to take. Yes, vaccines developed using fetal stem cells obtained from abortions may be morally used by Christians. Yes, we should take vaccines and have a moral responsibility to do

Of course, there are several issues to explore in these questions - more than can be unpacked in a single bulletin insert or even in a series of inserts! Over the next several weeks, I will be answering some of the most common concerns. There are several key documents that form the foundation of the Church's teaching in this area. Weighing in at just 35 pages, they are well worth reading.

Our attention to these issues reflects our care for all human life. May we be emboldened to proclaim the Gospel of Life, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide us to better care for all.

- Father Maurer

Reference documents

Dignitatis Personae (On Certain Bioethical Questions), Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, 2008 - https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20081208_dignitas-personae_en.html

Moral Reflections on Vaccines Prepared from Cells Derived from Aborted Human Fetuses, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2005 [https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/\\$FILE/ncbq_2006_0006_0003_0145_0154.pdf](https://www.pdcnet.org/C1257D43006C9AB1/file/B3945E0E17A0025085257D94004A597D/$FILE/ncbq_2006_0006_0003_0145_0154.pdf)

Note on Italian vaccine issue, Pontifical Academy for Life, 2017 <http://www.academyforlife.va/content/pav/en/the-academy/activity-academy/note-vaccini.html>