

In his January 16th Letter to President-elect Obama, Cardinal George, cited three reasons why embryonic stem cell research is 'especially pointless at this time':

- First, basic research in the capabilities of embryonic stem cells can be and is being pursued using the currently eligible cell lines as well as the hundreds of lines produced with nonfederal funds since 2001.
- Second, recent startling advances in reprogramming adult cells into embryonic-like stem cells – hailed by the journal Science as the scientific breakthrough of the year – are said by many scientists to be making embryonic stem cells irrelevant to medical progress.
- Third, adult and cord blood stem cells are now known to have great versatility, and are increasingly being used to reverse serious illnesses and even help rebuild damaged organs. To divert scarce funds away from these promising avenues for research and treatment toward the avenue that is most morally controversial as well as most medically speculative would be a sad victory of politics over science.”

We celebrate First Holy Communion on Sunday, 17 May 2009 in the 11 a.m. Mass.

Our candidates ask for your prayers.

Name, place of birth

- Viktoria Hengelbrok, The Netherlands*
- Rohan Kanti, Philippines*
- Stefan Knobloch, USA*
- Robert McClelland, USA*
- Niamh O'Brien, Belgium*
- Anthony Quinn, Germany*
- Samantha Rückeis, Germany*
- Florian Ruffner, USA*
- Dylan Schmidt, Germany*
- Clementina Uwaifo, Nigeria*
- Emily Weymar, Germany*
- Erin Zicarelli, Austria*

Collections:

- 3/10/21 May Our Mission
- 17 May Pro Vita
- 24 May Catholic Daycare Centers
- 31 May RENOVABIS
- 1/7/19/21 June Our Mission
- 14 June Religious Education books for Public Schools
- 28 June Caritas
- 29 June Peter's Pence



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Office hours: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

May / June 2009

Word of the Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Today, with the Executive Order I am about to sign, we will bring the change that so many scientists and researchers; doctors and innovators; patients and loved ones have hoped for, and fought for, these past eight years: we will lift the ban on federal funding for promising embryonic stem cell research. We will vigorously support scientists who pursue this research. And we will aim for America to lead the world in the discoveries it one day may yield...”

With these words President Barack Obama on March 9, 2009 announced an important change which he had promised during his electoral campaign. American Catholics had warned me before. But I thought: Once he is elected president, so many people will pray for him and then hopefully he will not do it. But I was wrong.

Cardinal Francis George, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called this executive order “a sad victory of politics over science and ethics”. Under the order, for the first time in U.S. history, federal tax dollars would be used to encourage researchers to destroy human embryos for stem cell research.

Recently the Roman Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declared: “The obtaining of stem cells from a living human embryo... invariably causes the death of the embryo and is consequently gravely illicit. In this case, research is not truly at the service of humanity. In fact, this research advances through the suppression of human lives that are equal in dignity to the lives of other human individuals and to the lives of the researchers themselves” (Dignitas Personae).

Do not do to others what you would not like done to yourself!

May God bless us and help us appreciate the invaluable gift of human life.

Father Herbert Gilllessen

Liturgy May / June 2009

All Saints / St Bernhard's / St Albert's

MAY

3	Fourth Sunday of Easter	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
10	Fifth Sunday of Easter	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
17	Sixth Sunday of Easter St Bernhard's: First Holy Communion	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
21	Ascension of the Lord	---	11 a.m.	---
24	Seventh Sunday of Easter	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
31	Pentecost Sunday	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

JUNE

1	Pentecost Monday	---	11 a.m.	---
7	Most Holy Trinity	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
14	Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Joint Mass of the Mission at St Bernhard's 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass 10:30 a.m. Corpus Christi Procession			
21	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
28	13th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
29	Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles	-----	7:00 p.m.	-----

Information for the Mission in General

Our Mission offers pastoral care, religious education (children and adults: First Holy Communion, Confirmation). Baptisms, weddings, hospital and home visits can be arranged through the Priest.

The Priest is also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and by appointment. For weddings, please contact Father Gilllessen 3 months in advance.

English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission

at St Bernhard's (Rectory)

Königin-Luise-Str. 33
14195 Berlin (Dahlem)
(U3 Dahlem-Dorf,
Bus X83, X11)

at St Albert's the Great

Nestorstr. 10
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,
S-Bahnhof Halensee) M19, M29
Lehliner Platz

at All Saints

Hüttenweg 46
14195 Berlin
Bus 285, 115,

at Heilig Geist

Filipino Community
Bayernallee 28
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(S-Bhf.Heerstr./U-Bhf. Neu-Westend)
Mass on Sundays at 3.30 p.m.

at St Michael's

Ghana Community
Waldemarstr. 8-10
10999 Berlin
U-Bhf Moritzplatz
Sunday at 1 p.m.