



Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth on ALS Association Bucket Challenge

The ALS Association Ice Bucket challenge is a rage. But some Diocese of Fort Worth Catholics have raised questions about participating in the challenge because some of the funds raised will be used by ALS to fund research done with embryonic stem cells.

Bishop Michael Olson observes that embryonic stem cell research goes against Catholic moral teaching about the sanctity of life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Many Catholics, as well as others, in the Diocese's geographic area suffer from ALS. Research to find a cure for the disease is important to those who are afflicted.

Therefore, Bishop Olson urges Catholics who participate in the Bucket Challenge to direct their financial contributions to an organization which conducts research in a manner consistent with Catholic teachings: The John Paul II Medical Research Institute.

The John Paul II Medical Research Institute (JP2MRI), located in Iowa City, IA, "focuses on the most ethical and cost-effective way of conducting medical research to help develop therapies and cures for a variety of diseases." Complete details about the JP2 Medical Research Institute and how to donate are available at: <http://jp2mri.org/>

Bishop Olson asks every Catholic in the Diocese to pray for those afflicted with ALS and for their families who are providing such loving care.