

# origins

CNS documentary service

## Moral Considerations Regarding the New COVID-19 Vaccines

### Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann

The “gravity” of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and “the lack of availability of alternative vaccines” are “sufficiently serious” reasons to accept the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, the chairmen of the U.S. bishops’ doctrine and pro-life committees said Dec. 14. “Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community,” they said. “In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our

*“We cannot omit fulfilling serious obligations such as the prevention of deadly infection and the spread of contagion among those who are vulnerable.”*

moral responsibility for the common good.” The bishops addressed the moral concerns raised by the fact the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have some connection to cell lines that originated with tissue taken from abortions. However, this connection to morally compromised cell lines is so remote and the public health situation is too grave to reject the vaccines, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities. Late Dec. 11, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave emergency-use approval to the Pfizer vaccine, with approval expected for Moderna the week of Dec. 14. UPS and FedEx began shipping the doses across the country Dec. 12, with the first shipments arriving Dec. 14. The statement follows.

#### I. Moral Concerns About the Creation of Vaccines<sup>1</sup>

**a**s Pope St. John Paul II never tired of proclaiming to the world, “the church has always taught and continues to teach that the result of human procreation from the first moment of its existence must be guaranteed that unconditional respect which is morally due to the human being in his or her totality and unity as body and spirit.”<sup>2</sup>

Recognizing that respect due each mem-

*continued on page 518*



#### contents

- 517 Moral Considerations Regarding the New COVID-19 Vaccines  
*by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann*
- 521 Catholic Hymnody at the Service of the Church: An Aid for Evaluating Hymn Lyrics  
*by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Doctrine*
- 527 Message for International Day of Persons With Disabilities  
*by Pope Francis*
- 528 Statute of the Supervisory and Financial Information Authority  
*by Pope Francis*
- 532 Datebook
- 532 On File

December 24, 2020  
Volume 50  
Number 31