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THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH

Sep. 18, 2020

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sanofi Pasteur USA
Dr. John Shiver, Global Head of R&D
Sanofi Pasteur
Box 187 Discovery Drive
Swiftwater, PA 18370

Re: Gratitude to Sanofi Pasteur on Ethical Polio Vaccines

Dear Sanofi Pasteur,

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (TCCB) is the public policy voice of the Roman Catholic Church in Texas. On behalf of the active 23 Catholic Bishops in Texas, we wish to express our gratitude for your company's work to stop using an aborted fetal cell line known as MRC-5 and [approval by the FDA](#) to begin using an ethical animal cell line to produce your stand-alone polio vaccines, Pentacel and Quadracel.

Your action is especially laudatory when it is accompanied by research and development of [two ethical COVID-19 pre-trial vaccine candidates](#) alongside other biotechnology companies. As the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) stated in their [letter to Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#), it is imperative that vaccines be developed ethically and are free from any connection to the exploitation of abortion.

In 2005, the [Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life](#) asserted physicians and parents "have a duty to take recourse to alternatives vaccines (if they exist), putting pressure on the political authorities and health systems so that other vaccines without moral problems become available." They [reiterated the teaching in 2017](#). While noting cell lines currently used are very distant from the original abortions and no longer imply that bond of moral cooperation indispensable for an ethically negative evaluation of their use, they confirmed the need to ensure that every vaccine has no connection in its preparation of any material of originating from abortion.

As Pope Francis acknowledged in [Laudato Si](#), "How can we not feel gratitude and appreciation for this [technological] progress, especially in the fields of medicine, engineering and communications? How could we not acknowledge the work of many scientists and engineers who have provided alternatives to make development sustainable?" Please be assured of our continued prayers for your work to take up this important task and promote more ethically derived vaccines in the future.

Yours in Christ,

Executive Director, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops