**Letter to local Healthcare/Hospital/Clinic/Charity Leaders**

Dear (Healthcare/Hospital/Clinic/Charity Leader) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

The only vaccines readily available in the United States for some contagious diseases (e.g., rubella and Hepatitis A) have been manufactured using fetal tissue from induced abortions. This creates a problem of conscience for some Catholic parents.

As recommended by the Pontifical Academy for Life in 2005, a long-term solution lies in working to ensure that future vaccines and other medicines are not based on cooperation with practices that demean human life. This applies to products based on abortion, as well as to projected therapies from destruction of human embryos for their stem cells.

The FDA recently approved a new shingles vaccine that does not use aborted fetal cell lines, and has given it a preferential recommendation over the only other available, and morally problematic, shingles vaccine on the market. The attached joint letter from our colleagues at the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) and the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) provides a more detail and some helpful suggestions. We can hope that, with some encouragement, the manufacturer of this new vaccine may consider creating other morally acceptable vaccines.

I encourage you to share the attached CMA/NCBC letter with your appropriate staff, especially those who may be responsible for ordering vaccines and medical supplies. Also enclosed for your use is a template thank you letter to the vaccine manufacturer. Any encouragement to create additional morally acceptable products will certainly be strengthened if we can show a market demand for such alternatives.

Thank you for sharing this good news with your staff and for sharing your gratitude with the manufacture.

Sincerely in Christ,