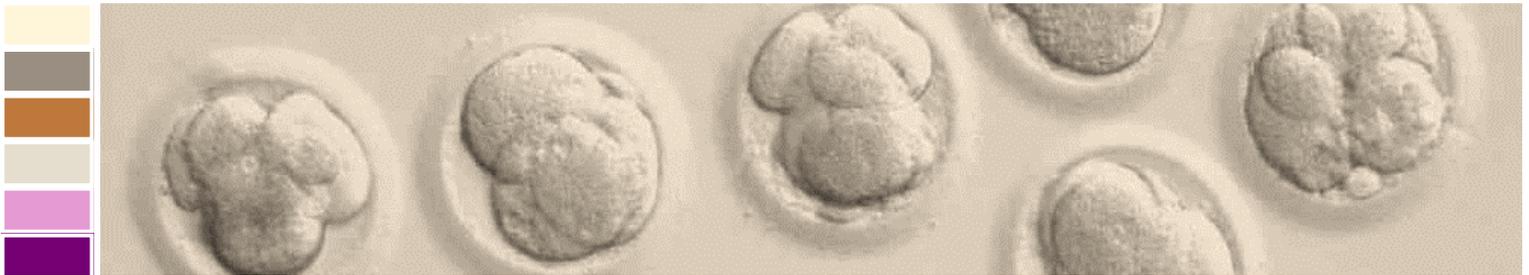




News and information about the youngest human beings

Brought to you by **Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter**



About Us

Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter (SHG) facilitates Christian burial for the embryonic human beings who die in IVF labs. All of our activities are carried out in faithfulness to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. SHG is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization incorporated in Minnesota.



“Life once conceived, must be protected with the utmost care.” Donum Vitae.

Why Do We Bury the Dead?

by *Father Andrew M. Jaspers*

The question of this article is one of fairly recent vintage. That is, until recently, most Christians buried their dead without much consideration, and out of centuries of habit. But the combination of a more secularized society and new methods of treating the human body after death prompt reflection on this basic question. We may not personally have any plans but for our own burial. But we likely have relatives or friends who do not share this presumption. It is therefore useful to have reasons to share with them, perhaps to explain why you desire to have your body buried after death.

Despite the fraying of our social fabric, there is still a basic reverence for a recently deceased person’s body. For instance, no one would think to put a human corpse out with the trash on the sidewalk. And state civil law generally bars the disposal of human remains from anywhere except a place designated for that purpose. For instance, it is against the law to scatter ashes in a waterway.

Confusion about reverence due to the human body arises when the earthly remains resemble the body less and less. Consider remembering grandma by viewing her body versus looking at an urn which holds her ashes.” This same difficulty in connecting human dignity to a body happens when the body is very small, as with embryos. This accounts for greater public acceptance for early abortions rather than late abortions—because the person is harder to recognize earlier in pregnancy.

That human bodies should be treated with reverence seems to be a law that arises from conscience untutored by faith. But the Christian faith gives added reason for burial of the body, given the revelation of Jesus Christ, who was buried in a tomb and rose again in His body. This shows that human bodies are only interrupted by death, and will be reconstituted and glorified in the resurrection of the dead. Thus, they should be kept intact and in a fitting place until they are revived.

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The Christian catacombs were an early expression of how the bodies of saints sanctify their places of rest and invite us to pray for them and ask for their prayers. This prefigured Christian cemeteries, where burial rites and visits to the tombs continue. These practices remind us of our communion with the dead. “At the funeral rites. . . the Christian community affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession” (Order of Christian Funerals 6). We are blessed at Sacred Heart Guardians to extend this reverence to the tiniest among us. And we are blessed that you help extend this dignity to them. *Fr. Jaspers is chaplain at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, MN, teaches at the St. Paul Seminary, and is chaplain of Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter.*

Our Mission in Action >>>

Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter’s mission is to facilitate Christian burial for the embryonic human beings who die in IVF labs, and who would otherwise be disposed of as medical waste.

SHG facilitates four burials a year for human embryos that die in IVF labs. We outreach to IVF clinics across the country, asking that they send arrested (deceased) embryos to us for burial, rather than throw them out as waste. If they are unwilling to consider this as a new standard lab process, we urge them to present the choice to their clients, prior to the start of an IVF cycle.

Our mission witnesses to the reality that human embryos are human beings, and therefore fully human persons, each of whose life *“is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end.”* (CCC 2258)

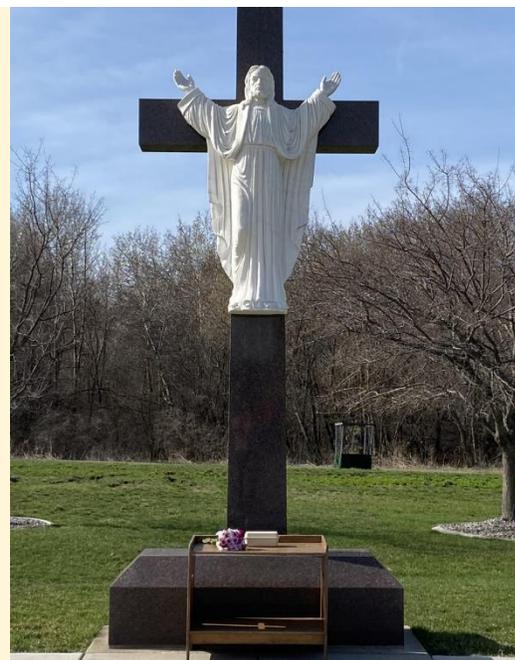
Our mission looks to St. Joseph of Arimathea's act of charity (*see page 3*) and to Jesus Himself, as He instructs us on how to inherit His Kingdom by our love for Him expressed by our love for each other:

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’”

Matthew 25:40

Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter facilitated prayerful burial for 41 deceased embryonic human beings on February 2, 2022 and for 129 deceased embryonic human beings on May 4, 2022. Father Andrew Jaspers celebrated the Rite of Committal with Final Commendation at both burials.

Since 2018, SHG has facilitated burial for 813 embryonic children whose lives started and ended in IVF facilities. The next burial is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2022.



*Epiphany Cemetery (East Cemetery).
Coon Rapids, Minnesota*



*129 embryonic children were buried on 5/4/22.
An embroidered heart contains a string of pearl
beads, one for each child.*



2022 grave marker for Feb, May, Aug & Nov.

Praying for the dead >>>

Upon receiving the remains of embryonic children, a member of Sacred Heart Guardians offers the following prayer, adapted from "Prayers After Death." The standard prayer may be found on the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) (<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayers-death-and-dying>).

Saints of God, come to their aid!

Come to meet them, Angels of the Lord!

R/. Receive their souls and present them to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;

may Angels lead you to Abraham's side. **R/.**

Give them eternal rest, O Lord,

and may your light shine on them forever. **R/.**

Let us pray.

All-powerful and merciful God,

we commend to you these children, your servants.

In your mercy and love,

blot out the stain of original sin, which we all inherited by our first parents' disobedience in the Garden.

In this world they have died:

let them live with you forever.

Through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

These verses may also be used:

V/. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

R/. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

V/. May they rest in peace.

R/. Amen.

V/. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,

through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R/. Amen.



"The Church prays for the dead, and this prayer says much about the reality of the Church itself. It says that the Church continues to live in the hope of eternal life. Prayer for the dead is almost a battle with the reality of death and destruction that weighs down upon the early existence of many. This is and remains a particular revelation of the Resurrection. In this prayer Christ himself bears witness to the life and immortality to which God calls every human being." [Crossing the Threshold of Hope](#). John Paul II

Prayer Requests >>>

Pray with us for those who have requested prayer on our website: <https://sacredheartguardians.org/services/prayer/>

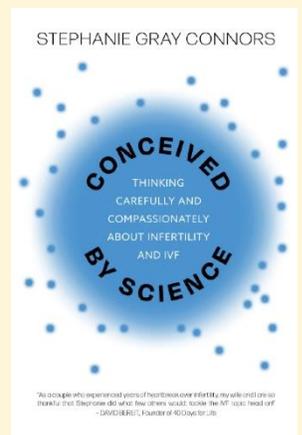
"We have 3 embryos remaining and a beautiful 4 year old through ivf. My husband doesn't want more children as the process was so stressful and we were successful. I have grudgingly signed the papers to thaw and bring my babies home but I can hardly bear it."

On the Nightstand >>>

Books, articles, and news on issues pertaining to early human life.

- **Conceived By Science. Thinking Carefully and Compassionately About Infertility and IVF.** Stephanie Gray Connors. Florida: Wongeese Publishing. 2021.

For those who face infertility, is In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) an ethical response to that great suffering? Conceived by Science presents the lived experiences of various people who have struggled to conceive. It also proposes arguments and principles, from both a non-religious and a Christian perspective, to be guided by when evaluating the ethics of IVF. In doing so, this book appeals to the mind as well as the heart (from the book's description on Amazon).



- **Crossing the Threshold of Hope.**

Saint John Paul II. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1994.

- **Lawsuit: Laboratory Disaster at Colorado's CNY Fertility. Clinic Destroys Couple's 7 Viable Embryos.** <https://bit.ly/3smiFtZ>

We need your help!

Every year, **hundreds of thousands** of embryonic human beings die in IVF labs and are disposed of as medical waste. We need your help to give these young souls the dignity of a Christian burial.

- ♥ **Donate to SHG.** Your financial support goes towards the cost of clinic outreach mailings, shipping of embryonic remains to SHG, and grave markers.
- ♥ **Do you know an IVF MD or RN?** Tell them about us.
- ♥ **Invite SHG to speak** at your parish, Respect Life, or interest group. We can present in-person or virtually.
- ♥ **Pray with us. Pray for us.**



Donate Electronically:

www.sacredheartguardians.org

Donate by Mail:

Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter (SHG)
3432 Denmark Avenue #253 Eagan, MN 55123

*SHG is a 501(c)(3) organization and
gifts are tax-deductible.*



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Eagan, Minnesota 55123

*Care & Prayer for the
Youngest People*

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www.sacredheartguardians.org
info@sacredheartguardians.org

Next burial: Tues. August 2, 2022.
Follow us on Facebook
(@SacredHeartGuardians)
for additional details.