THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC BIOETHICS CENTER
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October 22, 2026

Greeting to Participants in the Event "*What Does the Catholic Church Teach about Embryo Adoption*?" in the Auditorium of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine (Washington, DC)

Dear friends in Christ,

I am very pleased to extend my warm greetings and the support of The National Catholic Bioethics Center for the informative conversation that will unfold this evening.

The topic of embryo adoption raises serious questions for all of us who uphold the dignity of every human life from the moment of conception and who also understand the intimate and inseparable link between marriage, the mutual self-giving of husband and wife in marital love, and procreation.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center provides education, guidance, and resources to help form consciences with fidelity to the Church's Magisterium, including on the topic of embryo adoption, which has remained an open question for decades, without a complete and definitive resolution. As we continue to await greater clarity from the Magisterium, our minds and hearts compel us forward in the quest for greater clarity, with a spirit of charity and intellectual integrity, through events like this one.

There are strong arguments both for and against embryo adoption in one form or another, with many nuances, all of which appeal to authoritative teachings of the Church, medical science, and philosophical reasoning. Some argue that embryo adoption of any kind is intrinsically immoral, others argue that embryo adoption is not merely an option but a duty, and still others argue that it may be legitimate only under limited circumstances that account for various intentions or prudential factors, such as the danger of incentivization of more in vitro fertilization.

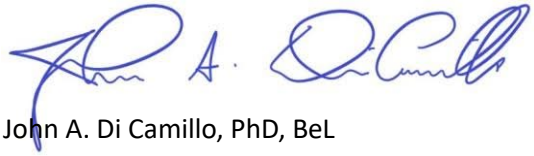
Navigating these distinctions and the many arguments advanced by careful thinkers, like the distinguished speakers here this evening, is a critical part of conscience formation for those seeking to make decisions on this matter, from individual couples to policymakers in dioceses and in government.

I am delighted that the NCBC's President Emeritus and the Cardinal Krol Professor of Moral Theology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Dr. John Haas, will discuss this topic with Dr. Elizabeth Rex, a highly published Catholic bioethicist whose work has focused on the subject of embryo adoption for many years.

Dear friends, I pray that this event will enlighten you and encourage you to deeper exploration of the broad array of faithful scholarship on these profoundly difficult and very real questions about how to best respect God's loving design for procreation and how to love the most vulnerable among us—cryopreserved children at the earliest stages of human life.

Saint John Paul II, pray for us!

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,



John A. Di Camillo, PhD, BeL
President