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Letters to the Editor

Catholic Medical Association

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No Hippocratic Oath

To The Editor:

The AMA has now approved as "ethical" stem cell research on embryos but only for research. They still are opposed to the actual cloning of the embryos. Why? There is no logical difference between the two. If anything, the latter is better since the possibility of life is granted the latter while only the possibility of death awaits the former.

An embryo is a full human being with all that it will ever have physically till the day it dies. To deliberately kill it is an act of murder. But since the AMA long ago approved of abortion, it is now fully part of the culture of death. With approval of stem cell research, the AMA only intensifies its culture of death and not of healing. Who doubts that PAS will be next?

Is it any wonder that graduating doctors at American medical schools no longer recite the Hippocratic Oath? How could they? Their official practice is to do exactly what the Oath forbids. In a little more than twenty years, medicine has gone from a healing profession to a profession fostering the culture of death.

– Peter J. Riga, Ph.D.
Houston, Texas

A Chance to Help

To the Editor:

I am pleased to bring to your attention an opportunity to make

good use of any books you no longer need – and to help a fledgling African university at the same time! Here is the deal.

Monsignor Cormac Burke was for many years a judge of the Roman Rota, and remains one of the world's leading canonists. Although now of an age when most of us would retire, Msgr. Burke is deeply involved with getting Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya, up and running smoothly. Among the many needs of this Catholic institution is a library. Msgr. Burke writes (to no one's surprise, I trust): "books are expensive and hard to come by here in Africa. Any book which someone no longer uses or has no place for on his shelf will be more than welcome."

I hope you have some volumes – especially in the humanities – to spare. You can send them to Monsignor at the address listed on page VI. Or, if you prefer, send them to me and I'll ship them to Monsignor for you.

Best deal yet, send me a full carton or more and I will send you a free copy of *Same Sex Attraction: A Parent's Guide*, edited by Father John Harvey. Among those contributing are Benedict Ashley, OP, John Finnis, Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, the late John Cardinal O'Connor, myself - and Monsignor Cormac Burke.

– Gerry Bradley
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(see mailing address on
page VI of this issue)