

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.

How informed are *prospective* IVF families?

When SHG reaches out to IVF centers with an offer to provide burial for the embryos who die in their labs, one of their stated objections is that burial is a patient decision, and that they could not send deceased embryos to SHG for burial without the patients’ permission.

It’s tempting to point out that, without permission, the lab deems it acceptable to throw away patients’ deceased embryonic children.

There is a choice: waste or burial, and SHG asks the IVF center if it would consider updating its pre-IVF informed consent process to include options for how embryos who die in the lab are handled. This is the message of SHG’s current IVF center outreach postcard (*see page 3*).

Informed consent is “the process in which a health care provider educates a patient about the risks, benefits, and alternatives of a given procedure or intervention.”* It is “both an ethical and legal obligation of medical practitioners in the US and originates from the patient’s right to direct what happens to their body.”*

*<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430827/>

In the case of IVF, this should extend to “informed permission,” that is, **the right of a parent to determine what happens to their children’s bodies**, including in the event of death.

The goal of IVF is to generate a “microscopic human being” (R. Edwards, *A Matter of Life*, 1980), and this generation is the *raison d’être* for an IVF family. Every human being, in any stage of development, has a body. IVF families should have the power of informed permission and be thus able to direct the handling of the bodily remains of their deceased embryonic children.

In a recent call to a New Jersey-based IVF center, the clinic manager energetically shared that she was “astonished and appalled” at the idea of presenting burial to her “emotionally fragile patients.”

The perceived emotional state of a patient should not negate the ethical obligation of providing prospective IVF clients with education about the human nature of their embryos, the mortal risks to embryos in the IVF process, and the availability of burial for the embryos who die in the lab, as an alternative to medical waste disposal.

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 communal burials a year for human embryos who die in IVF labs. We outreach to IVF centers across the country by postcard and phone, asking that they send deceased (i.e., "arrested," "nonviable") embryos to us for burial, rather than throw them out as waste. If they are unwilling to consider burial as a standard lab process, we urge them to present the choice to their clients, prior to the start of an IVF cycle. Since 2018, SHG has facilitated burial for 855 embryonic children whose lives started and ended in IVF facilities.

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."* (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2258)

Our mission looks to St. Joseph of Arimathea's act of charity 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

On August 2, 2022, Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter facilitated prayerful burial for 42 deceased embryonic human beings. Father Andrew Jaspers celebrated the Rite of Committal with Final Commendation.

We are grateful to all who support SHG's mission through your generous gifts and prayers. You are serving Jesus through your care for these, our youngest brothers and sisters.



The remains of 42 embryonic children were laid to rest at the August burial.

Please Join Us

*at our next burial as we pray for our departed embryonic brothers and sisters
and for the respect of all life from conception to natural death.*

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Epiphany Catholic Cemetery (East Cemetery)

1900 111th Ave NW. Coon Rapids, MN 55433

9:30 – 9:40 am. Burial

9:40 – 10:00 am. Rosary

RSVP helpful but not required: <https://bit.ly/3CyCLqr>

Burial takes place regardless of weather conditions, and the Rosary is prayed outside at the gravesite.

If prolonged standing is difficult, please feel free to bring a folding chair.

Clinic Outreach >>>

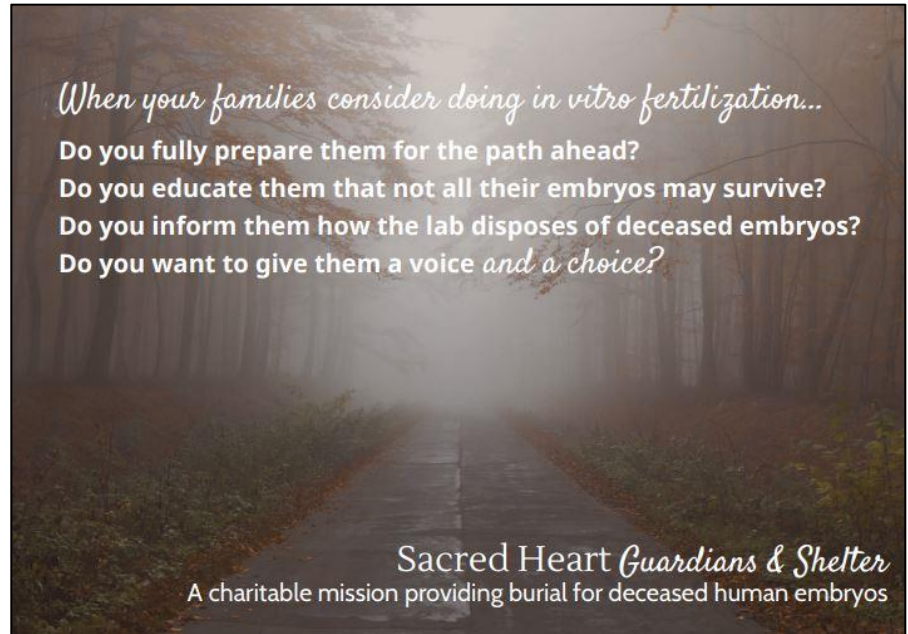
“How do you get the embryos for burial?”


This is a question we are often asked. Sacred Heart Guardians reaches out to IVF centers and labs across the country by postcard (2x/year) and phone, letting their staff know that we'd like to provide burial for the embryos who die while in their care, as an alternative to medical waste disposal. Reactions range from thoughtful and confused to uncomfortable and hostile.

Because of the generosity of our supporters, we make shipping and burial available at no charge to IVF labs and their client families. We aim to remove any logistical or cost barriers that may prevent a lab from engaging with this respectful service.

SHG recognizes the full humanity of these deceased embryonic children, and we endeavor to serve all of them. However, IVF facilities usually decline a full replacement of waste disposal, often pushing the decision back to their clients, at least in theory; “If someone asks for this, we might do it.” We then urge the IVF center to present the choice of burial to their families during the IVF informed consent process. In this way, families become aware of lab-based embryo mortality prior to starting IVF and have a voice regarding the handling of their deceased embryonic children.

Front and back of the current SHG postcard which is distributed to all US-based IVF centers and labs. SHG outreaches to approximately 2000 IVF MDs, RNs, and lab staff twice a year.



 Sacred Heart Guardians & Shelter (SHG) 3432 Denmark Ave. #253 Eagan, MN 55123	
<p>SHG facilitates burial for the remains of arrested (i.e., deceased) fresh and frozen embryos. Include the choice of burial (vs. waste disposal) in your pre-IVF informed consent process.</p>	<p>Learn More: 612-578-0377 info@sacredheartguardians.org https://sacredheartguardians.org/services/burial</p>
<p>SHG burials take place every 3 months at a Catholic cemetery near Minneapolis, MN. SHG can receive remains from any US-based IVF lab or 3rd party storage facility.</p> <p>Patient information is not needed and patients do not need to attend the burial.</p> <p>SHG is a charitable mission. There is no cost to clinics, labs, or patients for burial services.</p>	<p>Dr. John Smith Center for Reproductive Technologies 123 Main Street Anytown, State 12345</p>

On the Nightstand >>>

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

Doctor, Doctor #265 - In Vitro Fertilization: Science and Morality. Pediatrician and ethics professor Dr. William Stigall talks about the science and moral considerations behind in vitro fertilization. <https://doctordocor.org/episode265>.

Top 3 takeaways:

- *The humans created in IVF are persons, not property, so they must be treated with dignity.*
- *We can repair and assist the process of conception, but not replace it. We are not God.*
- *The children born of IVF are children of God with infinite value, the same dignity as children conceived naturally. All children are a gift.*

The Doctor, Doctor Show is a weekly radio show that discusses relevant, health-related topics from an authentically Catholic perspective. List to past episodes at <https://doctordocor.org/>.

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 doctor, nurse, or administrator?** Tell them about us.
- ♥ **Invite SHG to speak** at your parish or Respect Life group. We can present in-person or virtually.



Donate Electronically:

www.sacredheartguardians.org

Donate by Mail:

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*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. Nov 1, 2022.
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for additional details.