

ACADEMY FOR LIFE ON THE HUMAN EMBRYO

VATICAN CITY, 7 FEB 2006 (VIS) – The Pontifical Academy for Life, on the 27th through the 28th of February, will celebrate in the New Synod Hall of the Vatican a congress dedicated to the theme "The Human Embryo Before Implantation: Scientific Update and Bioethical Considerations" following the XII General Assembly of this institution (March 1st).

The opening of the symposium will be led by Bishop Elio Sgreccia, President of the Academy for Life. Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, President of the Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care will subsequently address the symposium on the theme "The Culture of Death Against the Culture of Life in the Teachings of Evangelium Vitae."

The sessions will deal with, among other topics, the development of the human embryo prior to implantation, the diagnostic of the embryo, both prenatal and before implantation, and the bio-anthropological status of the embryo prior to implantation. In the afternoon of February 28th, there will be a roundtable discussion in which diverse academics will discuss the question: "Is the Human Embryo a Person?"

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