

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

Statement

Archbishop Michael Jackels

There is interest in what has become known as the Ice Bucket Challenge to create awareness of ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, and to encourage donations to the ALS Association for research.

Promoting awareness of and funding research for a disease like ALS are good things. But donating to the ALS Association is inconsistent with Catholic moral teaching as it promotes stem cell research that destroys embryonic human beings.

Catholic individuals, parishes, schools, and other entities in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, if they participate in the Ice Bucket Challenge, are asked to send their donations to the *John Paul II Medical Research Institute (JP2MRI)* in Iowa City.

The JP2MRI is a secular non-profit research institute that is guided by a pro-life bioethic to advance technology for the treatment of diseases such as ALS, cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases.

When making donations to the JP2MRI you may ask for the gift to be restricted to ALS research. Online donations can be made at <http://www.jp2mri.org/donate-now.htm>. Checks can be made payable to: John Paul II Medical Research Institute, 540 E. Jefferson St., Suite 305, Iowa City, IA 52245.