A 7-week unborn child, still inside the amniotic sac, is placed in a petri dish for "research" purposes.

tile couples to achieve a pregnancy, it has contributed to the erosion of the dignity of the human being, and of the family. IVF brought us the first baby "conceived" in a test tube in 1978, and in 1983 it gave us a baby born to a mother from an embryo formed by her husband's sperm and a donor egg. One year later, a child was born from a frozen embryo. Today, according to *Time* (Nov. 8 '93), "There are already 10,000 embryos floating around in liquid-nitrogen baths in the U.S., stuck in a kind of icy limbo as their would-be parents sort out the options." Pro-abortionist Arthur Caplan complains that because Congress is afraid of anything that gets them near the abortion debate, we have no "systematic discussion of surrogacy, of what to do with frozen embryos when parents die, of who can operate a fertility clinic." (Recall the IVF doctor who used his own sperm to impregnate dozens of women.)

In the IVF process, an egg is collected from a woman, sperm is collected from a man, and they are joined in a petri dish to create an embryo. (NIH scientists have suggested calling this newly created life a "pre-embryo" in order to diffuse ethical concerns when it is experimented upon or destroyed). The embryo is checked for genetic defects (those with defects are summarily discarded) and then implanted into a woman. Because, at an average cost of $10,000 there is only a 10% chance of success if only one embryo is implanted, generally several embryos are implanted together to increase the survival rate. If more than one survives, the woman then has the option of "reduction", or "selective fetacide", killing one or more of the babies by lethal injection, or of having a multiple birth.

Scientists who recently artificially twinned embryos in the laboratory at Georgetown University, did so presumably to facilitate IVF. Although the procedure was dubbed cloning by the media, it was not technically so. True cloning bypasses the reproductive system and involves creating a complete individual from a ordinary body cell.

The Georgetown researchers took a fertilized human egg after it had divided into two cells. They stripped it of its protective coating and separated the two cells. Replacing the coating with an artificial substance, they were successful in artificially producing twins. They reasoned that if an embryo could be twinned, not only could potentially harmful genetic tests be done on one embryo without harming the other, but that also it would be easier to acquire a number of embryos for simultaneous transplantation. Both supporters and critics of the procedure have envisioned the commercialization of fertility technology potentially resulting in baby farming — clones cannibalized for spare parts — or the production of order-to-specification babies for the infertile couple.

"Family Values"

Currently, through IVF, not only are embryos discarded as so much excess raw material, not only is the creation of life separated from the sexual act, but the idea of family is stretched to such a degree as to be almost meaningless. Presently the meanings of the words "mother," "father," and "parents" have been distorted and confused though biological and social manipulation. "Mother" is a term seldom used by a pro-abortionist. One of the commonly used semen donor catalogs uses the acronym DADS (Data Assisted Donor Selection) to describe the computer database containing donor portfolios. The term family has recently been described as "anyone with whom you are close", and there are numerous instances of homosexual "families" demanding recognition socially as well as legally. During the Republican National Convention, Barbara Bush said, "However you define family, that's what we mean by family values."

No longer does "family" mean a lifelong union between a husband and wife, where children are nourished and cherished and civilized, but rather it is "however you define family." It is a historical fact that any society which has stretched the definition of family and has unfastened the tie that binds, stable marriage and family life, has crumbled from within.

It is becoming increasingly clear that rash technical interventions in human biochemistry create more problems than they solve. With the discovery of the truths of the natural world comes a temptation to think that science deals with just matter and nothing more. The late Dr. Jerome Lejune, the French geneticist who discovered the chromosomal abnormality that causes Down's Syndrome, warned that science can give "the impression that we are the masters of our fate, and can disregard and delete as we see fit." He said that in order to continue with experiments that will cure diseases without violating the life of the unborn, "We need a touchstone...and the only one which will suffice is found in Matthew 25:40, 'Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, you do also to me.'" (*Columbia*, Jan. 1994) ■

Fr. Weslyn (center) kneels with the Lambs of Christ in the driveway of the Women's Pavillion at Dobbs Ferry by B. Fidelis

Dobbs Ferry sees FACE-busting rescue

Dobbs Ferry, NY — Women's Pavilion abortuary was the target of a post-FACE rescue by Lambs of Christ on June 28.

Police received an anonymous phone call saying that someone was tampering with the gates around the clinic. Upon arrival, police found the gates sealed with Kryptonite bicycle locks which took 45 minutes to remove. As soon as the locks were removed, abortuary personnel attempted to drive into the lot. Twenty-one Lambs immediately blocked their way.

The rescuers were arrested.

New York Attorney General G. Oliver Koppell announced the next day that he would file suit under the month-old Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). The new federal law allows either state attorneys general or any U.S. attorney to file a civil suit against rescuers. Penalties allow for fines as high as $15,000 per violation for civil judgments.

The 21 rescuers were tried and sentenced by Dobbs Ferry Village Justice Luba Iler for disorderly conduct two days later and sentenced to jail time ranging from nine to 45 days.

One of the rescuers, James McWilliams, told Iler, "I just need to warn you that your soul and anyone else involved in the taking of children's lives are in danger of damnation."

Iler responded that she took "umbrage" that McWilliams believed he was "in charge of [her] soul."

On July 1, the day after the sentencing, Koppell filed the state's lawsuit under FACE. This will be the first time in the country that the civil aspects of FACE have been used. Six rescuers were charged with federal criminal FACE violations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin last month just nine days after Clinton signed it into law.

The suit by the state seeks $10,000 in damages from each of 23 people — the 21 arrested on June 28 and two others connected to the group LIFE — and another $11,000 in total damages sought for the abortuary for 13 missed appointments.

In a separate suit, connected to a different statute, the state seeks an injunction and $75,000 from 12 of the arrested individuals and $25,000 from two others for violating an earlier injunction.

Father Norman Weslyn, leader of the Lambs of Christ group that did the rescue said, "We consider [FACE] and the president's signing of it to be obscene. But it won't deter us."

Weslyn was sentenced to 45 days for disorderly conduct and violating an order of protection.

Christopher Slattery, program director for Legal Center for Defense of Life in Manhattan and a former Dobbs Ferry rescuer, said, "Our movement is under vicious attack and taking a severe pounding" but maintained that the suits filed will not stop hard-core rescuers like the Lambs of Christ.

The Women's Pavilion abortuary in Dobbs Ferry has long been a target of rescue activity and other pro-life operations. Since June 30, 1988, there have been 1,050 arrests at the clinic. Police overtime and other expenses for the village over that time are estimated at $181,000.■