



CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Upholding the Principles of the Catholic Faith in the Science and Practice of Medicine

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jack Lane, M.D.



*B*rothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all who attended our annual meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, last September. We planned for 400, only to have over 600 people register! The 2012 conference was filled

with inspirational presentations, profoundly beautiful liturgies, and a spirit of camaraderie and fellowship that must be experienced to be appreciated. All who attended truly enjoyed a manifestation of the New Evangelization. For the CMA, it was a great start to the Year of Faith. And I am grateful to begin my year as president at such a grace-filled moment.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Serving our student members continues to be an important focus for the CMA. We successfully raised over \$70,000 in scholarships at last year's conference for CMA's first annual Boot Camp, to be held at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary outside of Philadelphia on June 19-22, 2013. If your local guild is near a medical school, invite the students to your events, offer to mentor them, and encourage them to attend the boot camp as well as our national conferences. The greatest satisfaction I've received as a member of the CMA has come from building relationships with local medical student members who have an intense desire to practice medicine consistent with our Catholic faith. Often, they have as much to offer me as I have to offer them.

CMA'S NEW MISSION STATEMENT

A few months ago, to more accurately reflect the nature of the CMA and more effectively represent it to the world, the board of directors approved a new mission statement (see box above on this page). The statement was introduced at the 2012 General Assembly and approved in December after careful consideration of all input received.

The new mission statement grounds itself in CMA's heritage of fidelity ("steadfast fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church"; "upholding the principles of the Catholic faith . . ."). It highlights the three fundamental ways the CMA strives to engage its members

CMA MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Medical Association is a physician-led community of healthcare professionals that informs, organizes, and inspires its members, in steadfast fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine.

(informs, by educating; organizes, by forming local guilds and connecting members for fellowship and support; inspires, by calling and helping members to grow in faith). Finally, the new statement recognizes the fact that the CMA values non-physician members (since 1997) while remaining a physician-led and -focused organization ("a physician-led community of healthcare professionals").

I was proud to be part of this process. Our new mission statement will provide a strong foundation upon which to build many future initiatives.

LOOKING AHEAD

The outstanding growth of the CMA last year (over 460 new members and 15 guilds) was very encouraging. We must continue to extend this growth in order to preserve and expand our ability to practice medicine that is rooted in the Catholic tradition. Our secular culture has rejected the Christian view of human nature and dignity, while rooting itself in radical personal autonomy and utilitarianism. This has profoundly disturbing implications for the role of the physician and the level of trust that our patients place in us. The freedom to practice in accordance with our conscience has been under attack by the current administration, evidenced not only by the HHS mandate, but also by rescinding the conscience protection regulations established by HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt in late 2008. Many of our guilds are working closely with their bishops, and our national office is in dialogue with the USCCB to determine how the CMA can best help to respond to these attacks.

My challenge to all our members this year is to convince at least one colleague to join the CMA and to attend this year's conference in Santa Barbara, California. I can't think of a more beautiful place to spend three days in fellowship and prayer with Catholic physicians and healthcare professionals, to grow together in our faith, and to resolve to witness to it more effectively.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam 

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CMA in the News ...

CMA in the Media

The month of January 2013 saw many opportunities for the CMA to speak out about the dignity of human life. On January 25, CMA Executive Director John F. Brehany, Ph. D. was interviewed by the *Wall St. Journal Europe Edition*, for a forthcoming story on assisted suicide in Benelux countries. He was also interviewed on January 29 by *LifeSiteNews* for a story on the Colorado Catholic hospital that appealed to Colorado's lack of personhood legislation to protect unborn life and argued that a fetus is not a person under the law to win a wrongful death lawsuit. On January 31 he participated in a *Huffington Post Live* webinar on the same issue. 

CMA member Richard Fitzgibbons, M.D. was quoted in a *Free Republic* article in January 2013, regarding educational and activist efforts to promote transgenderism and sex reassignment surgery for children. He points out the connection between Gender Identity Disorder and the development of same-sex attraction later in life. Dr. Fitzgibbons is a principal contributor to CMA's study Homosexuality and Hope. 

CMA Advocates Conscience Rights

The Catholic Medical Association continues to be an active voice in opposition to the Obama Administration's office of Health and Human Services Contraception Mandate. The CMA has signed on to two friend of court briefs advocating on behalf of conscience rights, and was mentioned in an Americans United for Life press release on February 19, 2013. We will continue to speak out and take the necessary steps to advocate for the protection of conscience rights for all. 

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John F. Brehany, Ph.D., S.T.L.



The last few months have been a whirlwind of activity at CMA headquarters. Last December, we wrapped up our most successful year ever, with over 460 new members and 15 new guilds. I hope you enjoyed the annual report we compiled—the first ever

in the history of the CMA. We are already through the first quarter of a new year where it appears, from early trends at least, that we are on track to exceed last year's growth in membership. The board of directors and staff are now engaged in a variety of initiatives to strengthen the CMA internally and to improve its witness and service to the world.

STRENGTHENING THE CMA

While the CMA has made a great deal of progress, there are a host of ideas on how to do more and better. These ideas include developing a new layer of CMA leaders at the state level to better assist the Church and our allies in the fight against the culture of death, in dealing with important legislation, ballot initiatives, and medical society policies that arise at the state level. Other proposals involve providing more tools to our members to connect, learn, and then witness more effectively, and assistance to new and existing guilds so that they can organize more quickly and then engage more effectively in core initiatives to serve the Church and mentor medical students. In terms of improving our witness to the world, I have been in talks with *Linacre* editor in chief Bill Williams, M.D. and some outside consultants about how we can “translate” some of CMA's internal expertise and print materials into videos that can be viewed and shared online. Feel free to send us your ideas on what the CMA should be doing to grow stronger internally and externally!

TELLING OUR STORIES

In my opinion, one of the most important things the CMA can do at this time is to improve in how it “tells the story” of the CMA as well as the stories of how belonging to the CMA has made a difference in the lives and practice of our members. We are undertaking several initiatives to do just this. One initiative involves a thorough updating of the materials on our website. We are honing the language we use to describe the

mission and programs of the CMA, and improving everything from page layout to navigation. One of the most important new features of the website will be an increasing amount of video and audio content. We hired someone to film events at our record-setting 2012 conference so that we can better illustrate the impressive features of CMA conferences. Check out the new video at the CMA's website. At the same time, we filmed interviews with over 30 CMA members, and will use that footage to showcase our members and what the CMA means to them on several pages on our website. Finally, we have just released a major revision of our print materials, including our brochures and posters, to better present the CMA to people who have never heard of it. These materials will benefit the efforts of both the national CMA and local guilds as we strive to attract and retain more members. Keep an eye out for these materials and initiatives and let us know what you think.

OUR NEW POPE

As Fr. Gutowski so well wrote on page 5, we are living in very interesting times, especially with regard to the papacy of the Church. A new blog for evangelization, *aleteia.org*, asked me to prepare a statement immediately after the election of the new pope, and this is what I submitted. Even though it was a quick and early reaction, it still captures my thoughts and hopes.

As I waited and prayed before the election, it was hard to know who could be a worthy successor to our last two outstanding popes. The qualities that enabled the College of Cardinals to quickly unite in their election of Pope Francis are now coming into view: personal humility and love for the poor; consistency and courage in witnessing to all of the teachings of the Church, especially those most rejected in our times; a commitment to evangelization in word and deed; a strong intellectual formation—enough to allow him to see through popular innovations such as liberation theology; and extensive experience in leadership in the Church. In retrospect, Pope Francis now seems like a logical choice. Now let's see what the Holy Spirit has in mind for him and for the Church.

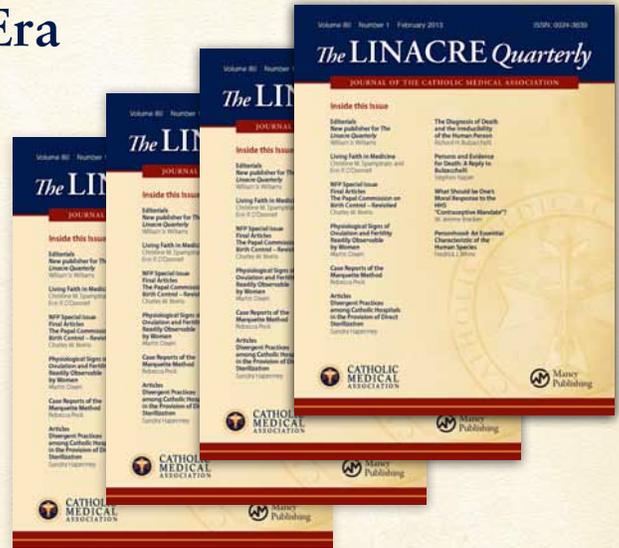
The board of directors has sent Pope Francis an official letter of congratulations and pledged the best efforts of the CMA to serve his pontificate and the Church. May all CMA members learn about, listen to, and support our new pope at this critical time for the Church and the world. *✠*

Linacre Quarterly Enters New Era

First Issue with New Publisher Released

In June 2012, the CMA signed a contract with Maney Publishing to provide comprehensive services for the production, distribution, and promotion of *The Linacre Quarterly*. The February 2013 issue of the *Linacre* was the first under the new arrangement, and members are very pleased with the results!

Maney was founded in 1900, and has grown to publish hundreds of journals internationally. Maney has the resources to bring a unified, professional approach to publishing the *Linacre*—everything from online tools for article submission and peer review, to staff and facilities for print and online distribution. In addition, Maney plans to promote the *Linacre* both in the United States and internationally. The *Linacre* already is the oldest journal in America dedicated to issues of medical ethics; with Maney’s help, the *Linacre* can become the leading journal of Catholic medical ethics in the world.



Editor-in-chief William Williams, M.D, has substantially increased the quantity and quality of articles and established a peer-review process. And now, the CMA’s new relationship with Maney is taking the *Linacre* into an exciting new era. *ew*

New Media Tool on CMA’s Website!

The CMA just added a new media tool to its website, www.cathmed.org

A new media tool now graces the home page of the CMA website. A scrolling feed entitled “Media Coverage: CMA, the Church, and Life Issues,” located in the bottom right corner of the website provides headlines and links to news and social media stories. Powered by Meltwater News, Inc., the tool enables CMA to make available stories covering current events of interest, CMA national, CMA guilds and member related news, and news involving issues in the Church and bioethics issues.

Consistently monitoring topics in over 192,000 sources from over 190 countries and 100 languages, Meltwater News is a powerful tool that also allows CMA to analyze the extent and tenor of news coverage of the CMA, both in publications and in social media.

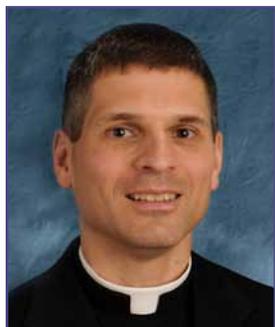
CMA staff will be able to monitor, share, and respond to a range of media stories, social media comments, and tweets. Watch the Newsfeed for updates and items of interest on the CMA, the Church and the world.

We think this tool will be helpful in multiple respects. Check it out and let us know what you think! *ew*



Living in Interesting Times; Faithful Until the End of Time

Rev. Matthew J. Gutowski, S.T.L.



When I was in the seminary, one of my professors was Sister Zoe Glenski. She was a Daughter of Charity who taught Church history. She would often remind us that history is not only something of the past but also is happening currently. “We’re all in history,” she would oftentimes exclaim. Sister Zoe and

her words of wisdom came to my mind, first of all, because of the recent resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and, then, the election of Pope Francis. We have been living through an amazing amount of history in the last two months! When Sister Zoe would lecture enthusiastically on past and current significant events, often she would simply say “Wow!” Certainly what we have just witnessed in regards to the papacy has been a historical moment where our reaction is, “Wow!”

Unfortunately, our breath also is being taken away by the quagmire created in our nation by elements of Obamacare which threaten our religious liberty and the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. Not only has this sea change come upon us, but other travails possibly will have to be faced soon. What a tragedy it would be if the U.S. Supreme Court, after having heard arguments in the two cases regarding the definition of marriage (*Hollingsworth v. Perry* and *United States v. Windsor*) at the end of March, were to hand down a decision this summer that strikes down any federal or state laws that define marriage as only between one man and one woman. This would be a moral, social, and legal earthquake of the likes of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. Our rights of conscience probably would be all the more trampled upon. Who of us ever dreamed that the historical events we would live through would be so utterly traumatic for us as Catholics and especially for medical professionals? From Pope Francis on down to all the members of the Church, this is the “history” in which we as Catholics find ourselves. Present-day society has become a tumultuous sea of moral turpitude. Like St. Peter, the first pope, when he was called forth by Jesus to walk on the waters of the stormy Sea of Galilee, my first reaction, and probably yours as well, is to cry out to Our Lord, “Help!”

So, what are we to do? It really is not complicated. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus in utter trust as Our Lord bade St. Peter, walking on the stormy sea. Therefore, most of all, we need to pray, pray, pray! It is first our participation in the most powerful prayer of the Holy Mass (daily if possible) and Adoration of the Holy Eucharist where we begin to find the strength and courage we need and therein are able to keep ourselves focused on Jesus. May we all have a great devotion to the Divine Mercy of Jesus in particular, praying the chaplet He gave to St. Faustina that honors and beseeches His mercy. Further, it is paramount that we pray Our Lady’s rosary each day and do penance for the conversion of sinners as she has asked us to do over and over in the approved Marian apparitions of the past couple centuries. Let us also not forget the powerful intercession of the saints, especially that of St. Joseph, imploring them to pray for us. Finally, we need to bind ourselves together all the more as a faithful body of Catholics to form a united front that stoutly, yet charitably, counters the culture of sin and death. The Catholic Medical Association can be a splendid bulwark and place of support for Catholic physicians and other medical professionals.

Yes, we’re all in history. We are in the throes of historical events which can easily make us discouraged and despondent. Yet a deep, abiding hope should be our anchor. Why?—because we are not alone. Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, and all the saints are with us. With Pope Francis at the helm and united as faithful Catholics, especially in the Catholic Medical Association, we can stand strong, regardless of our fears and what we suffer now. Finally, we look forward in faith to that future day beyond the Calvary that the Church is suffering in the present. In the end, we know that all of human history will culminate in the Church’s triumph over sin and death because (as we recall every year during the seasons of Lent and Easter) Christ has first conquered these by His death on the Cross and His Resurrection. How wonderful that moment of victory will be at Christ’s Second Coming when, standing with all the saints as the Church Triumphant, we can all breathe a collective “Whew!” and cheer “Hurray!” That will be the best moment in history of all, if only we remain faithful to Christ in the history we are living through now. Wow! 

HHS Mandate Update

New Proposed Rule Is Still Insufficient

On February 1, 2013, President Obama's Department of Health and Human Services announced yet another attempt to find some way to (ostensibly) respect the beliefs and religious freedom of millions of Americans. The CMA has had the chance to study the new HHS rule and confer with several attorneys and will summarize its findings below.

HEADLINES

The biggest "headline" of the latest proposal by HHS was that a compromise was being made to the definition of "religious employer or institution." Previously, HHS had insisted on a four-part test created by the ACLU that limited the definition of religious employer to one that: "(1) has the inculcation of religious values as its purpose; (2) primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets; (3) primarily serves persons who share its religious tenets; and (4) is a nonprofit organization described in section 6033(a)(1) and 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) of the [IRS] Code." HHS now says it will eliminate requirements (1)-(3), keeping only requirement (4), and give qualifying institutions an "exemption" from the mandate.

A second headline was that HHS was finding a way to recognize Catholic institutions which incorporate separately as 501(c)(3) nonprofits (e.g., colleges and ministries such as EWTN). HHS now states it will grant an "accommodation" to such institutions, if they self-certify their religious nature, the specific benefits to which they object, and the reasons therefor.

THE REAL STORY

The "headlines" above got media attention. Attorneys and analysts have identified a much murkier and problematic set of facts that tell a different story.

"Religious Employer"

Relying on IRS Code section 6033 still creates a very narrow definition of religious employer or institution. Only churches, church organizations (such as dioceses), religious orders, etc., will qualify for an "exemption."

"Religious Nonprofits"

The "accommodation" that HHS proposed for this large set of institutions is *not an exemption from the law* based on the right of religious freedom, but a *discretionary decision* made by the government that can be changed in the future. HHS puts the burden of proof on the institution to defend itself. And if an organization

fails to be clear enough in its self-certification, it could be forced to cover new items in the future.

"Double Trouble"

There are two further problems to note:

Whether HHS grants an "exemption" or "accommodation," all it means is that the institution won't be forced to *directly pay for or provide* the contraceptive entitlements. But the Obama administration still insists that all employees of such institutions shall receive all the new "benefits." This means, in effect, that a convent of nuns owning and running a school still must receive contraceptive benefits (paid for by someone else).

The basis for these benefits will be the status of people as employees of faith-based organizations. And employers will be required to deliver names and contact information to the government or third parties to provide the benefits.

"Faith-based For Profits"

For-profit businesses started and run by people of faith (e.g., Catholic companies like Hercules Industries and Protestant companies like Hobby Lobby) received no relief in the new "compromise." Some believe that the Obama administration wants to focus its court fights on this group. The Obama's administration already has argued in court that for-profit companies (and their owners) have no 1st Amendment rights of religious freedom—as for-profits they are subject to any and all government regulations and demands.

The Obama administration's troubling view of religious freedom, spelled out across its approach to these three sets of plaintiffs—and by its refusal to grant any exemption individuals who to refuse these "benefits"—is that Americans enjoy religious freedom *only* if they belong to a group officially recognized by the federal government. And even then, the scope of that freedom is to be determined by the government and its agenda. Finally, people who work for secular organizations should remember that contraceptive benefits apply to employees *and dependents* (wives and daughters), in complete confidentiality.

CONCLUSION

This fight is a long way from over. Please make your voice heard and support, with prayers and donations, those organizations fighting on the front lines. *ew* —JFB

New Guild Rocks!

Congratulations to the Finger Lakes Guild of Rochester, NY

The Finger Lakes Guild of Rochester, New York was approved late last year with seven members. To get things rolling at the start of their first full year, guild members held an inaugural Mass on February 10. Almost 90 people turned out and *10 new members joined the national CMA*. Dozens signed up for committees, and email inquiries continue to come in each week.

When asked to explain the reason for the high turnout and many memberships, Guild Secretary Jean Baric Parker stated, “Pent up interest! It feels like this Guild was just waiting to be born!”

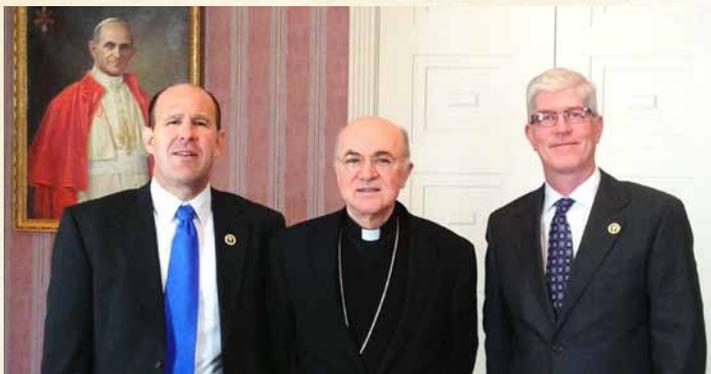
The guild leadership is making a strong start in being an active voice advocating for the dignity of human life on behalf of Catholic physicians. Finger Lakes board members attended the Rose Dinner at the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., along with other CMA members. *ew*



(l-r) Fr. Bob Ring (Guild Chaplain), Jean Baric-Parker (Secretary), Dr. Karen Dalton (Treasurer), Dr. Elissa Sanchez-Speech (Vice President), Dr. John Sullivan (President) and Jann Armantrout (Board Member, Diocesan Liaison)

CMA at 40th Annual March for Life

The CMA gathered its largest contingent ever to march at the 40th annual March for Life in January. Approximately 40 physicians, healthcare professionals, medical students, and family members met in front of the Smithsonian Castle before braving snow and cold temperatures to send a message demanding respect for the dignity of human life to President Obama and the nation.

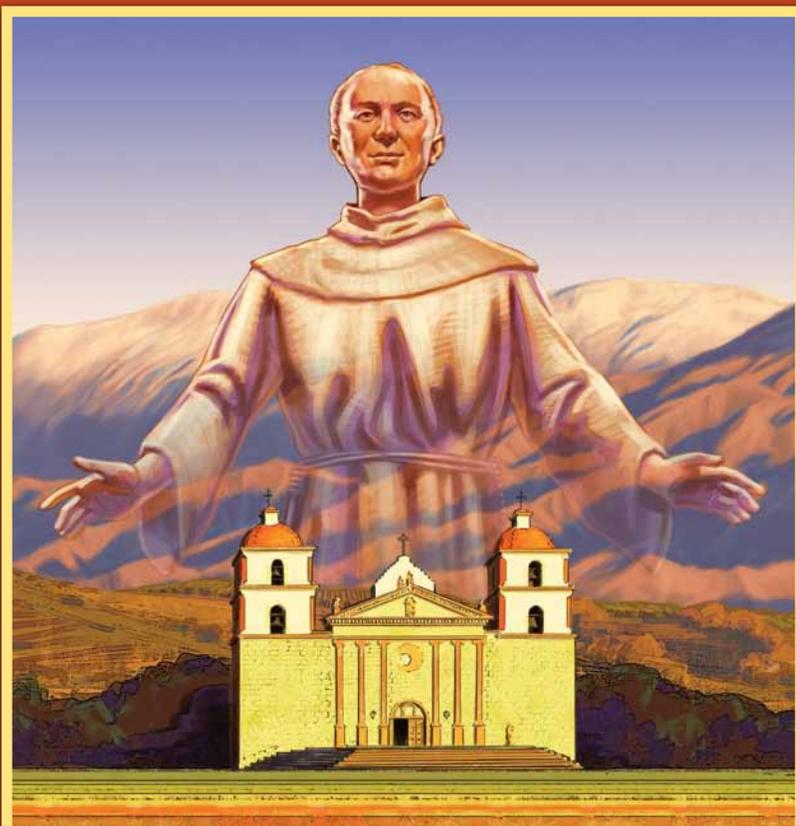


Prior to the March, Board President John I. Lane, M.D., and Executive Director John F. Brehany, Ph.D., met with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, to brief him on the history and recent progress of the CMA. The meeting served as an important first step in building the relationship of the CMA and the Apostolic Nunciature. The CMA looks forward to working with Archbishop Viganò to better serve the Church. *ew*



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