



Medical Ethics Newsletter

Catholic Medical Students' Association

Affiliated with the Catholic Medical Association



CMSA Goals

- To provide guidance and support for medical students.
- To support & nurture spiritual growth and moral leadership.
- To promote education in Catholic physician values.
- To develop community among students entering the medical professions.

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CATHOLIC MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSEMBLE

The annual conference of the CMA was a great success for students! This year's Theology of the Body: Modern Challenges to Health, Conscience, and Human Dignity saw the first-ever students' session well-attended by nearly fifty people. Twenty were medical students. That makes for the most successful student turnout for a CMA conference yet!

Students (and their mentors) gathered for an interesting discussion of how to be a Catholic OB/GYN in today's world. Dr. Faith Daggs, an NFP-only OB/GYN, encouraged us to be faithful to Our Lord as we serve His people in the clinic. Michael Cataldo, Ph.D., a behavioral biology professor at Johns Hopkins, treated us to a discussion on how to live and

practice one's faith must inform one's actions.

Christianity is about loving and serving Our Lord with reckless abandon. For the exhausted, time-pressed medical student, attending Mass on Sunday becomes an act of sacrificial love. Offering a prayer or offering one's work for the salvation of one's colleagues or patients is likewise an act of love. Witnessing to the truth by standing up for the human dignity of all God's children—the unborn, "Medicaid" patients, and "drug seekers"—is another way one's Catholic faith ought to inform one's medical practice. To be sure, there is more to Catholicism than fulfilling the "bare minimum" requirements of the Church

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PRAYER OF MEDICAL STUDENT DEDICATION

We've all been preparing for a test (Step I anyone?) or rotating through some service which was particularly stressful. Let's face it, during these times, inner peace can seem like a distant dream available to all but the medical student. Thankfully, no matter how bad the attending, how difficult the hours, challenging the material, or inconvenient the normal rhythm of human life, God is there. To this end, St. Augustine offers this—perhaps my favorite—prayer. Write it on a note card, and slip it in your white coat:

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O God, full of compassion, I commit and commend myself to you, in whom I am, and live, and know. Be the goal of my pilgrimage, and my rest by the way.

Let my soul take refuge from the crowding turmoil of earthly thoughts beneath the shadow of your wings. And may my heart, this sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God. Amen.

Augustine of Hippo
(354-430 A.D.)



CATHOLIC MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSEMBLE: Continued...

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such as attending Mass on Sunday. Nevertheless, the pursuit of saintly holiness must begin with small acts of great love.

As Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year, resolve to offer your study, your nights on call, and your Sunday Communion as opportunities to grow in holiness. At the CMSA, we are devoting this year to renewing our members' awareness of and commitment to the dignity of human life. Our Lord said, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matt. 25:35-36). The priest at my parish back home, Fr. James Ols of

the Diocese of Cleveland, observed that Jesus just as well may have added "I was unborn and you protected me."

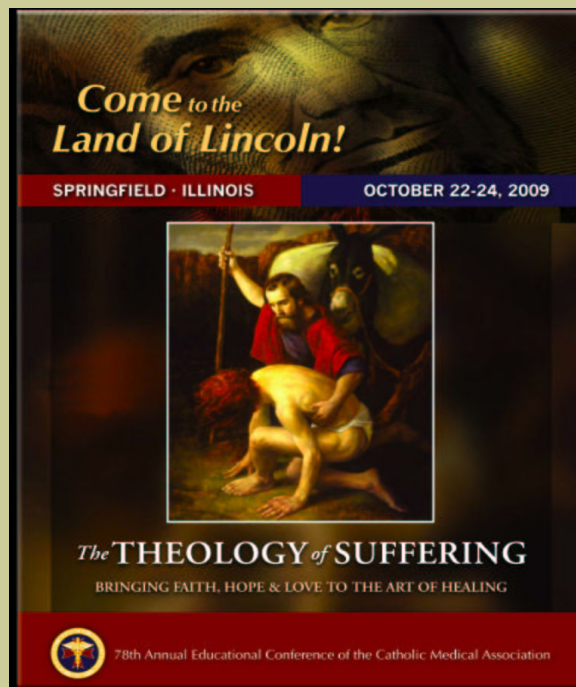
How very many opportunities we are offered as students to care for the ill, feed the hungry, welcome strangers, and defend the dignity of the helpless (including the unborn)! Each time we give of ourselves from the depth of our love for Christ, we mature as Christians. May God bless your Advent as you once again prepare your hearts to welcome the baby, Jesus. May the prayers of St. Luke and St. Giana Molla guide each of us in both the clinic and the classroom as we pursue holiness and strive to defend human dignity.

Patrick C. Beeman, M.A.
CMSA National President

The Hippocratic Oath is the best summary of medical ethics thus far articulated.

A tradition which should be exemplified by every physician.

PREPARE TO ATTEND NEXT YEAR IN SPRINGFIELD...



The Catholic Medical Students' Association is an organization seeking to promote spiritual and moral values, foster the development of spiritual life and worship, and help integrate these values into the practice of medicine.

Medical students and residents assemble each year at the annual meeting of the Catholic Medical Association. This year is the 78th Annual Conference, which will be held in Springfield, IL on October 22-24, 2009. Scholarships are available through the Catholic Medical Association.

CMSA PRAYER OF THE CATHOLIC PHYSICIAN



Lord Jesus,

Divine Physician, who in your earthly life showed special concern for those who suffer and entrusted to your disciples the ministry of healing, make us ever ready to alleviate the trials of our brethren. Make each one of us, aware of the great mission that is entrusted to him, strive always to be, in the performance of daily service, an instrument of your merciful love. Enlighten our minds, guide our hands, make our hearts diligent and compassionate. Ensure that in every patient we know how to discern the features of your divine Face.

You who are the Way, provide us with the gift of knowing how to imitate you every day as medical doctors not only of the body but of the whole person, helping those who are sick to tread with trust their own earthly path until the moment of their encounter with You.

You who are the Truth, provide us with the gift of wisdom and science in order to penetrate the mystery of the human person and their transcendent destiny as we draw near to them in order to discover the causes of their maladies and find suitable remedies.

You who are the Life, provide us with the gift of preaching and bearing witness to the 'Gospel of life' in our profession, committing ourselves to defending it always, from conception to its natural end, and to respect the dignity of every human being, and especially the dignity of the weakest and the most in need. Make us O Lord, Good Samaritans, ready to welcome, treat, and console those we encounter in our work. Following the example of the holy medical doctors who have preceded us, help us to offer our generous contribution to the constant renewal of health care structures.

Bless our studies and our profession, enlighten our research and our teaching. Lastly, grant to us, having constantly loved and served You in our suffering brethren, that at the end of our earthly pilgrimage we may contemplate your glorious countenance and experience the joy of the encounter with You in your Kingdom of joy and everlasting peace.

Amen.

John Paul II
The Vatican, June 29, 2000



Please join our online
Facebook community!

All Catholic Medical Students in the USA and Canada are encouraged to become members of the Catholic Medical Students' Association. Membership is free and may be obtained by signing up our web site. Students should be practicing Catholics who work to exemplify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, especially caring for the sick, the poor, and most vulnerable members of our communities.



Affiliated with the Catholic Medical Association



Serving God and man

ON THE WEB AT
WWW.CATHMSA.ORG

Catholic Medical Students' Association
P.O. Box 214
Oak Park, IL 60302
Email: info@cathmsa.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

5TH ANNUAL MIDWEST CMA BIOETHICS CONFERENCE

Social Justice and Bioethics

NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY

May 2, 2009 at 10:00 AM

Notre Dame, IN

Celebrant: Bishop John Michael D'Arcy

Registration and lunch (\$75.00)

Medical & Dental Students (\$10)

Please RSVP to: info@cathmsa.org

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

78th Annual National Conference:
"The Theology of Suffering"

October 22-24, 2009 in *Springfield, Illinois*

Scholarships for medical students are available through the
CMA. For more information or to register online visit:

WWW.CATHMED.ORG

RIGHT TO CONSCIOUS THREATENED BY PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The CMSA urges its members to become informed about the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). FOCA creates a "fundamental right" to abortion throughout the nine months of pregnancy. No governmental body at any level would be able to "deny or interfere with" this right, or to "discriminate" against the exercise of this right "in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services, or information."

In a September 19th letter to Members of Congress, Cardinal Justin Rigali, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, raised grave concerns about any possible consideration of FOCA. "Despite its deceptive title, FOCA would deprive the American peo-

ple in all 50 states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry," and would "counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country." The Cardinal declared: "We can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion." He urged all Senators and Representatives "to pledge their opposition to FOCA." For text of the letter, see: www.usccb.org/prolife/FOCArigaliltr.pdf

For more information, please visit The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, which is dedicated to offering programs in support of pro-life legislation and works closely with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. www.nchla.org

NEW MEMBERS

We encourage Students to join the Catholic Medical Association.

For Registration & Membership Information,

Call 1-215-877-9099 or visit WWW.CATHMED.ORG