



CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Catholic Medical Association, I want to thank Dr. Louis Breschi and the Baltimore guild for our recent outstanding conference “Theology of the Body – Modern Challenges to Health, Conscience, and Human Dignity.” All the

attendees had a great time and enjoyed the camaraderie as we unpacked further the rich teachings of Pope John Paul II’s Wednesday audiences as related to the practice of medicine. Particularly enlightening was Princeton Professor Robert George’s banquet talk “Embryo: A Defense of Human Life,” in which he detailed how science alone can be used to defend why the embryo should be accorded all the rights of a human person, even to non-religious individuals. Everything we do in our practices to uphold the teachings of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine can be justified based on science alone. All conference presentations can be obtained through the CMA bookstore, so go online and order yours now!

There have been many questions over the years as to who in health-care fields is eligible to be a full member of the CMA and, therefore, able to hold leadership positions. At the General Assembly, the Board proposed a revision to the bylaws to clarify membership categories. The revision stipulates that only physicians holding the degree of MD or DO would be counted as full members; those holding doctoral degrees in a health-care field such as DDS, DMD, DPM and PhD, would be associate members; and all others would be in a new category—affiliate members. These changes will not be final until voted on at the 2009 general assembly. At that time, dentists currently recognized as full members will be given the opportunity to remain in that category.

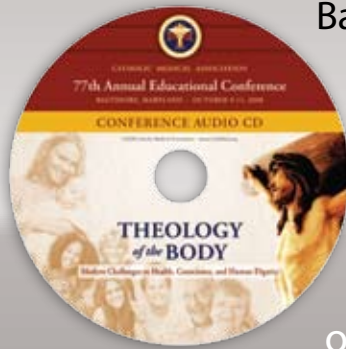
To help bring about a Culture of Life, we must help to educate those around us. To help you in your education process, we now have available, through the national office, Power-

point presentations on four important topics with a script that you can present in your parishes or your local guilds or medical groups. Just email our executive director, Dr. John Brehany, at info@cathmed.org, for a copy of the talks. Over this next year, we’ll be working on more resources for the membership.

Our most valuable resource is *The Linacre Quarterly*, the oldest journal of its type in the United States. At the end of October we learned that a long-time editor in chief and former president of the Milwaukee Catholic Physicians’ Guild, Dr. John P. Mullooly, died at the age of 78. Please pray for him and his family. Our editor in chief for the past five years, Dr. Eugene Diamond, is retiring after the November issue; and we’re pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. William Williams of the Philadelphia guild as editor-in-chief for 2009. Dr. Williams brings extensive research experience, as well as publishing and editing experience. We are grateful for his service to the *Linacre* and the CMA.

In Christ,

Kathleen M. Raviele, M.D.



Baltimore Conference

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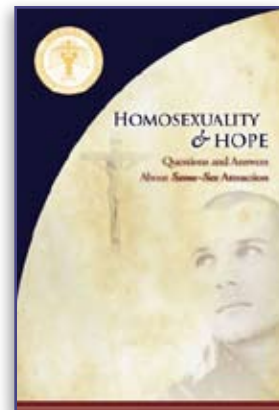
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CMA in the News ...

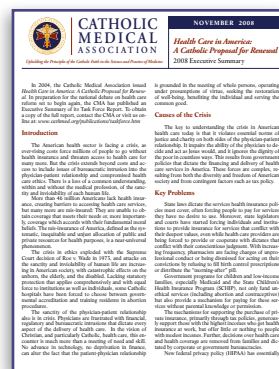
New Edition of *Homosexuality and Hope*

The CMA recently released an updated edition of its popular pamphlet *Homosexuality & Hope: Questions and Answers About Same-Sex Attraction*. The pamphlet provides clear, sensitive, and updated advice to persons and families who are dealing with same-sex attraction. The 2008 edition of *Homosexuality & Hope* features a new design and layout, updated citations reflecting new research on same-sex attraction, and a new question on recent attempts to apply the title "marriage" to same-sex relationships.



Health Care Task Force – New Executive Summary

In 2004, the Health Care Task Force of the CMA released its report *Health Care in America: A Catholic Proposal for Renewal*. Now, as the debate about health-care reform is set to begin again following the 2008 elections, the CMA has released a new executive summary of the 2004 report. The executive summary distills the key findings and recommendations of the original report and is available on the CMA's website. A new Health Care Task Force is hard at work on formulating an updated report which is scheduled to be released early in 2009.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

One glance back, two eyes forward



At the end of the year, I would like to take a quick look back to acknowledge, with gratitude, the progress we have made. When I came to the CMA just two years ago, I promised to build up the organization's tools and infrastructure so that

together we could communicate and collaborate more effectively. There were several projects in 2008 for which we used our enhanced online database and email tools to do just this. The national office was able to work with our OB/GYNs to oppose the efforts of ACOG and ABOG to mandate referral and performance of abortion. In addition, we were able to educate our members and solicit input on the new HHS regulation protecting health-care providers' conscience rights. Still, there is much work to do on both of these fronts. We were able to promote our annual conference via email updates and online registration as well as to help our members in other states become aware of local conferences sponsored by allies like the National Catholic Bioethics Center. Finally, we were able to harness the support of our members to fight assisted suicide in Washington State and legalized human embryonic stem-cell research in Michigan.

We have much to celebrate in terms of growth. CMA welcomed 236 new members in 2008, 135 of them active physicians. We also added 12 new chartered guilds as of the conference, and may add more before the end of the year. Please redouble your efforts to recruit members to the CMA! There are not only great needs, there are great benefits as well. In human terms at least, we need greater critical mass at the local and national levels to successfully build a Culture of Life.

While we made progress on several fronts in 2008, national and local election results dictate that we will need to do more, and do better, in 2009 and beyond. We can appropriately acknowledge that an important racial barrier has been overcome in American society and wish the new President success in providing true solutions to significant challenges we face at home and abroad. Still, there are good reasons

to fear that the Obama administration will promote abortion, human embryonic stem-cell research, and other elements of the Culture of Death to an unprecedented degree. And apart from these intrinsically evil acts, it is highly likely that substantial changes to the U.S. health-care delivery and financing systems will be proposed and implemented to some degree. All this will create far-reaching and potentially negative consequences for people, patients, and the medical profession. No doubt we face a multifaceted crisis. But crises always provide opportunities. It is my hope that the worst features of the crises we are facing will elicit our best efforts in response. Drawing on the foundations of our faith, working together and supporting one another, we can be a light and a leaven at this great moment of history. I look forward to meeting these challenges with you. Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and may the New Year bring us the grace we need to do God's will. *ew*

2009 Mid-Year Meeting

June 4-6, 2009

Retreat Center at St. John's, Detroit, MI

June 4-5

Workshops on CMA Leadership and Strategic Plan Development

June 6

Half-Day Seminar on Health Care Reform

For more information on attending the workshops, contact CMA at info@cathmed.org

BALTIMORE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Theology of the Body can enhance patient care and human relationships.

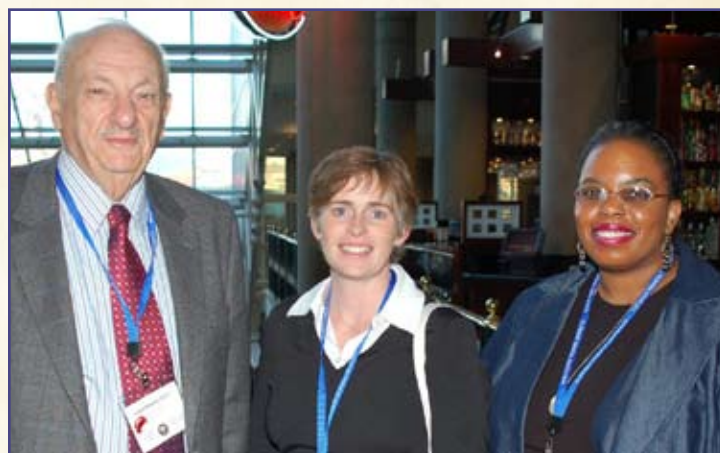
The Catholic Medical Association, in conjunction with the Baltimore guild, and with the prayers and support of many, successfully conducted the 77th Annual Educational Conference from October 9–11, 2008. Conference sessions were designed to provide a systematic consideration of the ways in which Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body can enhance patient care and human relationships across a wide spectrum.

According to Louis Breschi, M.D., conference chairman and president-elect, the most stirring moment was the call to order of the first session as he looked out over an audience of over 300 attendees to begin the Thursday morning sessions. As customary, the first day and every day began with the rosary followed by Mass and the opportunity for meditation in an adoration chapel.

Conference attendees were thrilled with the quality of the speakers and the structured organization of conference sessions and events. The intense interest generated by the presentations was evident in the long lines for the scheduled Q&A periods. Even though speakers stayed on schedule and Q&A periods were rationed with a "traffic-light system" (a first for the CMA!) there were always more questions than time would permit.

Mr. George Weigel, who delivered the first keynote address on Thursday afternoon, was eloquent and informative as he outlined his personal experience with writing the biography of John Paul II and his continued contact with Pope Benedict.

On Friday, there were particularly intriguing sessions on the importance of parental roles and on understanding cerebral development of teenagers. Friday afternoon's session on handling mid-life crises was a novel area in which to apply the insights of the Theology of the Body. This was followed by Saturday afternoon's groundbreaking session on sexuality issues for the aged and the increasing number of unique difficulties in treating and advising the elderly in light of the Theology of the Body.



An outstanding feature of the Baltimore conference was the very large turnout by medical students and physicians in training for a special session on Friday afternoon. Speakers Michael Cataldo, Ph.D., and Faith Daggs, M.D., addressed a standing-room-only crowd and hit a very personal cord with the participants. This special session for medical students should be a building block for future conferences.

The special event at the Maryland Science Center on Friday evening provided a nice change of pace for attendees and their families.

The annual White Mass was celebrated with great ceremony at the recently renovated Basilica of the Assumption by his Excellency Edwin F. O'Brien in front of a packed church. Finally, a possible-record crowd attended the annual banquet featuring a Maryland-style dinner. After the swearing in of the officers of the CMA and the presentation of the Linacre Award to Fr. James Gould, the crowd was stirred by an outstanding presentation by Professor Robert George of Princeton University, on a scientific and philosophical defense of the human embryo. *✍*



Linacre Quarterly REPORT

Striving to better serve CMA members and foster a Culture of Life.

I am truly honored to serve the CMA as editor in chief of *The Linacre Quarterly*. The *Linacre* has a long and distinguished heritage as the oldest, continuously published journal devoted to medical ethics. I look forward to building on this heritage and finding ways to make the *Linacre* even more effective in supporting the mission of the CMA.

The first thing I want to do is invite your increased participation in the *Linacre*. In this time of economic and political unrest, physicians are finding themselves under increasing attack, in particular with regard to practicing medicine according to their consciences. The secular world often pits conscience protection against the interests of patients. It is my contention that physicians who follow their well-formed consciences always act in accord with the best interests of their patients. So many examples abound in this regard—moves to force physicians to refer for or even perform abortions when the consequences for the mother include increased risk of suicide, depression, psychiatric illness, drug abuse, sexual dysfunction, post-traumatic stress disorder, etc.; forcing pharmacists to dispense contraceptives when the side effects include thrombosis, pulmonary embolus, stroke, MI, weakened relationships, higher divorce rates, etc. Where can we go to document these facts? Where can physicians and other health-care providers go to learn these facts, either to better care for their patients or to defend their conscientious, professional judgments?

There is a wealth of data in the scientific literature that addresses the consequences of acting in accord with or in opposition to the natural law. We need authors to perform comprehensive, unbiased literature reviews that can be published in the *Linacre* and found in Medline searches. Issues to address that conflict with natural law include abortion, contraception, homosexual acts, the morning-after pill, euthanasia, child abuse, ART, and sexual addictions. In addition, we should address the positive aspects of living in accord with the natural law, including living in a traditional family, having children, risks of pregnancy (have they changed since *Roe vs. Wade?*), chastity, prayer, fasting, natural family planning, etc.

I would like to see the medical, psychological, sociological, and spiritual aspects of these areas discussed. We have developed specific methodology that can be followed to de-

velop these reviews and will be happy to share these with potential authors. Of course, all submissions will be subject to peer review, and we will need members to participate in the peer-review process as well. *I invite you to become an author of a review article for the Linacre to help provide these valuable resources to the medical profession and the public.* If you are interested in contributing, please contact me at LQ@cathmed.org.

In addition, I would like to institute two new features for the *Linacre*: Ethics Case Reports, and Miracle Case Reports. The former will address specific, real-life cases which pose ethical issues, with sound moral and theological analyses. The latter will bring to light some of the medical cases that have been used in the causes of saints and their canonization. If you are interested in submitting a case, or in helping to coordinate submission of these cases, please let me know.

Finally, please pray for the *Linacre*. Add it to your rosary or just lift us up in prayer as we strive to better serve the members of the CMA, and to help foster a Culture of Life.

God Bless!

William V. Williams, M.D.



Baltimore Conference Adoration Sign-up. 

EPISCOPAL ADVISOR OBSERVATIONS

by Rev. Robert F. Vasa, JCL, DD, Episcopal Advisor to the CMA



Forty years ago a Pontifical Commission reported to Pope Paul VI that in their estimation the Church's long standing prohibition of artificial contraception was no longer justifiable. After prayerfully discerning the matter, Pope Paul VI issued his

clear and definitive statement that the intentional separation of the unitive and procreative aspects of the marital act always constituted a grave moral evil. The issuance of *Humanae Vitae* was a great act of courage which represents, even to our very day, a bold stand in the face of a relativistic, individualist, and materialistic culture. This teaching has been reiterated very strongly by Pope John Paul II, by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and by Pope Benedict XVI. This teaching, in many ways, stands at the heart of the cultural battle in which we are now engaged.

The establishment of the group Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) coincided with the rejection of *Humanae Vitae* by many in the Church. Just as Pope Paul VI's encyclical was a courageous act, so also CUF's founder, H. Lyman Stebbins, took a bold and courageous step clearly stating: "We have announced our purposes and repeated them again and again to give corporate expression of loyalty to the pope and bishops in union with him, and thus to the Church, and thus to Christ; to defend the entire treasury of Catholic teaching; and to work for the genuine renewal called for by the council [Vatican Council II], the renewal always needed in the Church, that is, the inner, moral, personal renewal of each one of us." What a marvelous mission statement! After forty years it is still as valid today as it was in 1968.

This reminds me of a chapter in the history of the Catholic Medical Association, which in 1968 was known as the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds (NFCPG). In 1968, the association boasted 10,000 members. At the issuance of *Humanae Vitae* there was a movement in the guilds to oppose this teaching. A small but courageous minority stood in the face of this attempted coup, made it clear that the CMA stood with the Holy Father, and kept the organization faithful to the Church. By doing this the CMA lost more than 9,000 members. The faith casualties of the cultural war had just begun. Those remaining faithful few were men and women of courage, some of whom still form the core of the Catholic Medical Association. I am very grateful to all of them.

I am also grateful to those who have more recently come forward to embrace and support the mission of the CMA. I want to recognize in a particular way our faithful, outgoing chaplain, Fr. James Gould of the Diocese of Arlington. Father Gould has been a courageous and outstanding witness to the truths of the Church, and he has lent this courage to the CMA for these past eight years. God bless you, Father Gould. I also want to acknowledge our past presidents, especially Dr. Kathleen Raviele and our new incoming president, Dr. Louis Breschi. Like the faithful few who stood in the face of a seeming majority in 1968, the members of the CMA stand now in the face of an expanding Culture of Death committed, like the members of CUF, "to give corporate expression of loyalty to the pope and bishops in union with him, and thus to the Church, and thus to Christ; to defend the entire treasury of Catholic teaching; and to work for the genuine renewal called for by the council, the renewal always needed in the Church, that is, the inner, moral, personal renewal of each one of us." God bless all of you for your courageous and outstanding witness. ✍️

New Chartered Guilds 2008

- Columbus, OH—*John Paul II Guild*
- Denver, CO—*Denver Guild*
- Duluth, MN—*St. Raphael's Guild*
- Nashville, TN—*Nashville Guild*
- Medford, OR—*Southern Oregon Guild*
- Phoenix, AZ—*Catholic Physicians Guild of Phoenix*
- Richmond, VA—*Richmond Guild*
- Rochester, MN—*Winona Diocese Guild*
- Sioux Falls, SD—*Sioux Falls Guild*
- Springfield, IL—*Springfield Guild*
- St. Petersburg, FL—*St. Petersburg Guild*
- Toledo, OH—*Northwest Ohio Guild*
- Venice, FL—*Venice Guild*

REGIONAL DIRECTOR & CHARTERED GUILD REPORTS

Below is a summary of reports from Regional Directors and Charter Guild Presidents from around the country. Chartered Guilds are marked in boldface.

Region I

The St. Luke's Guild in Boston hosted a very successful White Mass on Oct. 18th at St. John's Seminary celebrated by Cardinal Sean O'Malley. Twenty-four medical and dental students from Harvard and Boston Universities joined physicians, nurses, and other health-care providers for Mass and the dinner which followed. The guild also sponsored a day of recollection for its members this year. Outreach efforts to physicians in training at the five medical schools in the region are continuing. This year, at Harvard, students organized an official chapter of the Catholic Student Medical Association.

Catholic Medical Society of Rhode Island. Doctors, nurses, and other health-care professionals gathered on Oct. 16, 2008, to celebrate the second annual White Mass. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop Francis X. Roque (Bishop Emeritus for Military Services) and Fr. Timothy Reilly, the Rhode Island Guild's chaplain. Earlier in the year, the guild hosted a lecture by the Rev. Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., Ph.D., assistant professor of Biology at Providence College and a consultant for the Committee on Science and Human Values of the USCCB titled, "Is the Brain-Dead Patient Really Dead? A Perspective from the Catholic Tradition."

Worcester Guild. The guild held its first annual meeting and White Mass on Oct. 16, 2008. In addition, the guild hosted a birthday party at Leominster Hospital and its first summer picnic at Dunn's State Park in Gardner. Many new members have come out of those gatherings and already the organization is providing support to medical students at U. Mass. and comfort to doctors and nurses who feel persecuted for their faith or insecure in their positions. The guild has held several board meetings at St. Vincent's Hospital. At these meetings the guild's chaplain, Fr. Peter, has been providing brief reviews on various sections of the ERDs.

Region III

Baltimore Guild. The guild was extensively involved in planning and conducting the successful 77th Annual Educational

Conference. In addition, the guild held a Lenten Retreat on March 1, 2008, led by new Chaplain Fr. Michael DeAscanis. For its spring event on April 26, 2008, the guild hosted Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, who spoke on professional challenges in medical practice. The guild celebrated its annual White Mass on Oct. 11, 2008, in conjunction with the annual conference.

Philadelphia Guild. One of the major activities of the Philadelphia guild is its annual CME symposium. This year's symposium, "Conscience in Law and Medicine," was held in conjunction with CMA's mid-year meeting. The annual White Mass was held on Oct. 19. Presentations at monthly meetings addressed Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*; Huxley's *Brave New World*; "The Loss of Ethics in Medical Research and How to Fix It"; and C.S. Lewis. The guild also sponsored four Catholic medical students in internships with various members.

Pittsburgh Guild. The Pittsburgh guild meets monthly on Sunday mornings, from the months of September through May. Each meeting, held at Mercy Hospital in downtown Pittsburgh, includes Mass, breakfast, and a speaker. Topics have included health care for the homeless, the link between abortion and breast cancer, stem cell research, the physician as disciple, and an update on the CMA.

Richmond Guild. The guild was formally approved in August. Earlier in the year, on May 21, 2008, the guild hosted an event (Mass, dinner, and presenter Ron Hamel, CHA ethicist) with the support of the Bon Secours Health System. The event helped to stimulate interest in the guild.

Region IV

Northwest Ohio Guild. The guild, which is based in Toledo, held its inaugural event, a White Mass, at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Leonard P. Blair, on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2008. Health-care professionals from throughout the diocese and medical students who belong to the Catholic Medical Student Association attended. There were at least 200 health-care workers at the Mass, and about 80, including 15 physicians, came over to a reception held afterwards. Also, with the support of a local pastor, the guild hosted a dinner for 5 medical students and Denis Wilde of Priests for Life who preached at Masses the weekend of Oct. 11-12, 2008.

The Detroit guild held a spring conference on the ethics of treating infertility. Approximately 60 people attended. The guild held its annual St. Luke's Day Mass at Old St. Mary's Church and picked up 5 new members, including 3 medical students.

Region V

St. Petersburg, FL. The guild recently organized and held its first White Mass in the Diocese of St. Petersburg on Sept. 6, 2008. Bishop Robert N. Lynch celebrated the Mass along with Father Bob Morris (guild chaplain) and two other local priests. The Mass was followed by a dinner for 100–110 people (physicians, clergy, nurses, other health-care workers, and spouses). The guild hopes to reach out to local medical students and residents at the nearby University of South Florida Medical School. The guild, which was approved by the board at the annual meeting, is in the beginning stages of building up local membership and hopes to be able to start regular meetings in the near future.

Venice, FL. The Venice guild was officially approved at the Baltimore conference. In March 2008, the guild hosted a one-day bioethics conference presented by the NCBC with the leadership of Dr. Stephen Hannan. More than 200 attendees were treated to excellent presentations on stem-cell research and end-of-life issues. The physicians in attendance received CME credit. Bishop Frank Dewane attended the conference which began with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and addressed the audience. The guild is planning a second annual conference for March 21, 2009, at the Resurrection of Our Lord Parish Center in Fort Myers. This conference will be the guild's primary function.

Region VII

Chicago Catholic Physicians Guild. The guild helped to sponsor and organize the Integritas Institute's 7th Annual Healthcare Conference on Human Dignity and Health Science at University of Illinois at Chicago, Feb. 26, 2008, CMA speakers included Eugene Diamond, M.D., and John Brehany, Ph.D.; continued sponsorship of Integritas Lecture Series for Medical Students; co-sponsored with the Milwaukee Guild the 4th Annual Midwest Bioethics Conference on "Conscience Rights," April 26, 2008; continued free distribution of Guinan and Brehany's *Hippocratic and Judeo-Christian Medical Ethics* to medical students nationally; held annual White Mass on Oct. 19, 2008, with Bishop Sabastiani presiding and Fr. James Gould presenting on "Screening Criteria for Priests."

LaCrosse Guild. In April 2008, the guild collaborated with Viterbo University Institute for Ethics to bring Br. Daniel Sulmasy, M.D., for a well-received presentation on the "Ethics of Ter-

minal Sedation." In Oct. 2008, the guild celebrated its annual White Mass. Dr. Thomas Hilgers of the Pope Paul VI Institute in Omaha gave a day-long conference on NaProTechnology. The guild held two private meetings to review comprehensively the topics of the ethics of vaccination, and brain-death criteria. The goal for the next several years is to review a series of pertinent medical-ethical topics affecting current practice in view of Catholic teachings.

Milwaukee Guild. Guild members helped to lead an attempt (unfortunately unsuccessful) to stop legislation mandating provision of emergency "contraception" (explicitly including abortifacients) to victims of sexual assault. The guild assembled a collection of documents to offer to those in other states who will face similar legislation. Guild members also 1) continued to give an overview of Natural Family Planning to engaged couples as part of each of the archdiocese's Engaged Enrichment Days, 2) co-sponsored the 4th Annual Midwest Bioethics Conference on "Conscience Rights," April 26, 2008; 3) held its annual Hippocratic Oath Banquet for medical students; 4) held its second annual summer picnic for members, families, and friends; 5) hosted a media training seminar; and 6) celebrated a White Mass with Milwaukee's new auxiliary bishop, William Callahan, who used to be guild chaplain. Finally, seven members had a dinner meeting with all three of Milwaukee's bishops, at which Archbishop Dolan announced the formation of an archdiocesan bioethics committee. One of the two co-chairmen will be Dr. Jim Linn, a member of the guild's board.

In Minneapolis-St. Paul, Robert Tibesar, M.D., with encouragement from Bishop John Nienstadt, is currently working with Family Life Office Director Kathy Laird to re-establish the guild.

Omaha Guild. The Omaha Guild celebrated its White Mass on Oct. 18, 2008, with the Creighton University Catholic Medical Student Association. Retired Bishop Milone celebrated the Mass for about 60 people. The guild is revamping its website and would like to know from other guilds if message boards are used for communication about local topics. The guild is also planning a Lenten day of recollection for this spring.

Sioux Falls Guild. The guild, which will serve the eastern part of South Dakota, was approved at the Baltimore conference.

Springfield, Illinois, Guild. The Springfield guild was approved at the Baltimore conference. The guild will dedicate its efforts in 2009 to membership growth and preparing for the 78th Annual Educational Conference which will be held in Springfield.

St. Raphael's Guild of Duluth. Following intensive work throughout Summer 2008, the St. Raphael's Guild was approved at the end of August. With the support of Bishop Dennis Schnurr, a list of 650 physicians from the diocese of Duluth was compiled and matched against parish registries to determine how many were Catholic, resulting in a list of about 150 Catholic physicians to whom letters co-authored by the local guild president and Bishop Schnurr were mailed. More recently Guild President Tim Egan, M.D., distributed email and postal mail copies of the letter along with a suggested parish bulletin entry to the 95 parishes in the diocese, with a request to run this entry for about one month to recruit additional physician and non-physician members. Guild membership now stands at 12 physicians, quarterly meetings are planned.

St. Louis Guild. The guild held its annual White Mass on Oct. 8, 2008, with Auxiliary Bishop Hermann presiding (Archbishop Burke having recently been called to Rome). At its Spring meeting on April 11, the guild hosted Executive Director John Brehany for a dinner and talk on the future of the CMA.

Winona Guild. In Spring 2008, the guild hosted Fr. Peter Laird, vice rector, St. Paul Seminary, who spoke on "Faith and Reason," with 50 in attendance for dinner and address. In Fall 2008, the guild hosted Janet Smith, Ph.D., professor in residence, St. Paul Seminary, who spoke on "*The Ethical and Religious Directives in Light of Humanae Vitae*," with 75 in attendance. The annual White Mass was celebrated on Oct. 25, 2008, with attendance around 300.

Region VIII

Washington State Guild. The guild was heavily involved in efforts to defeat Measure 1000, which ultimately passed and decriminalized assisted suicide for the state of Washington.

Region IX

Denver Guild. Approved at the annual board meeting in Baltimore, the Denver Guild began holding monthly educational meetings on a variety of topics involving Catholic ethics and morality in Jan. 2008, with Mass and confession prior to meetings; in March, together with the Colorado Catholic Conference executive director, helped to head off three harmful pieces of legislation intended to control or limit Catholic health care; is investigating organized attempts to work with the poor.

Catholic Physicians Guild of Phoenix. The Phoenix guild meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings included Mass, a light dinner, and guest speakers on a variety of

ethical topics. Podcasts of many talks can be downloaded from the guild's website. Special events included the guild's White Mass on Nov. 14, 2008, with Bishop Olmstead as celebrant, Fr. Tad Pacholczyk as keynote speaker, and a banquet and awards; and public witness at the Arizona March for Life (Jan. 20, 2008) and Rosary Sunday (Oct. 14, 2008).

Region X

Central California Guild. Held monthly meetings throughout 2008 and, on Oct. 17, 2008, held an annual White Mass, with Bishop Stephen Blaire presiding, and John Haas, Ph.D., S.T.L., president of the NCBC, giving a presentation on conscience.

Region XI

A new national federation of Catholic physicians' guilds in Canada, has started at the request of Archbishop Collins of Toronto. Creation of the new federation was given strong impetus by a very real threat to freedom of conscience in Ontario. Under pressure from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the College of Physicians and Surgeons released a new policy proposal of obligatory participation in any patient request, regardless of the physician's moral code. Within a month, the college received 300 submissions against this proposal, including powerful ones from the Ontario Medical Association and Canadian Physicians for Life. The CMA also responded, and the college ultimately backed away from its proposed change. The submissions are a valuable resource for others who face threats to freedom of conscience. It is hoped that there will always be close harmony between the CMA and the new Canadian federation. *W*



William Buoni, M.D. accepts the John Paul II Guild's Charter certificate from CMA President Kathy Raviele, M.D. and Executive Director John Brehany in Baltimore. *W*

REFLECTION: ISSUES OF CONSCIENCE

by Patrick Guinan, M.D.

The choice of medicine as a career, the selection of certain specialties as a focus of that career, and the freedom to practice medicine according to the dictates of one's conscience (instructed by the sacred and certain doctrines of the Church) are now at greater risk in American society than ever before. The privilege of witnessing as a Catholic physician to the truth of and the binding nature of Magisterial teaching on the licitness of certain health-care practices is increasingly being impaired both by the ruling professional consensus and a developing legal climate. The prevailing influence of third party payers as to which procedures, particularly in the field of reproductive medicine, will be covered and compensated is an impediment to the freedom of the practitioner to select among various therapeutic and diagnostic options.

Historically, the prominent presence of Catholic health care, particularly in community hospitals but also, to limited extent, in tertiary-care teaching institutions, has insulated students, residents, and practitioners from duress by the public portrayal of Catholic exceptions to certain usual and customary technologies.

Economic threats to the success and even the survival of Catholic hospitals and health centers have undermined the willingness of some to claim conscientious abstention from procedures such as contraception, sterilization, abortion or abortion referral, and laboratory reproduction. Mergers and acquisitions involving Catholic partners, particularly in small markets, have further eroded public acceptance of the exclusion of certain services previously taken for granted as freely available. In some joint-venture negotiations, the seeming willingness of Catholic providers to compromise principle for expediency has changed public expectations. A variation among dioceses in policies for rape protocols and "uterine isolation" has led to accusations of "geographical morality" on traditional Catholic, bioethical standards.

The Catholic Medical Association has received numerous reports of pressure and persuasion being exerted on medical students, on clerkships and residents in both public and private hospitals to conform to institutional policies and "accept their share" of duties requiring performance or participation in activities contrary to Catholic ideology. To a lesser extent Catholic practitioners describe disagreements with chaplains and administrators on conflict cases.

The Catholic Medical Association is dedicated to assisting individual physicians within the limits of our influence. The Catholic Health Association is more involved in institutional cases but should also be willing to advocate for individuals. Both the CMA and the CHA look to Catholic

CATHOLIC MEDICAL STUDENT CORNER

I am excited to report on CMA's successful 2008 annual conference. Thanks to the generosity of many CMA donors, approximately 20 medical students were able to attend, far more than in previous years.

The conference featured a special educational session for medical students on Friday afternoon. We 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, led a discussion on how to live and practice one's faith in an academic medical center (no mean task, as we all know). Fr. Michael DeAscanis, chaplain of the Baltimore Guild, instructed us on "moral cooperation" in evil. A Catholic student cannot share in the intention or be instrumental in carrying out a moral evil.

The session included an extended question-and-answer session focused on the moral dilemmas Catholic medical students face. What should the Catholic student do when it comes time to scrub in on a tubal ligation? How can we students bear witness to our faith among patients, faculty, and colleagues? What is the responsibility of the Catholic student in the clinic who is asked to see a patient requesting oral contraceptives?

All in all, the conference encouraged us medical students to take the truth about man and woman, especially as presented in Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, and live it for ourselves, our profession, and our patients. I look forward to seeing you next year.

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bishops and the USCCB to place these various issues of conscience on their agenda and to take public positions which will be influential in the favorable resolution of policies inimical to Catholic student, resident, and practitioner interests. Given the changing economic, political, and cultural climate, it is more important than ever that we all work together to witness to the truths of the Catholic faith in the field of health care. *PG*



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