



St Rita Dallas Physicians Guild

A Chartered Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

April 2012

Upcoming events

- May 2 meeting after 5:30 Mass at St Rita's Cafeteria (Deacon Bolesta, The Vocation of the Catholic Physician)
- Upcoming meeting schedule can be found [here](#)

Links

[St Rita Dallas CMA Guild](#)

[National CMA website](#)

[UTSW St Basil Society](#)

[USCCB website](#)

[National Catholic Bioethics Center](#)

In the News

[October Baby](#)

Please support and watch October Baby, a pro-life movie about redemption and forgiveness

[Death penalty repealed in Connecticut](#)

Connecticut bishops praise new ruling banning the death penalty, calling it "a wonderful step in the right direction"

[CMA Joins Amicus Brief Protesting Blagojevich Rule](#)

The CMA joined several organizations of Christian professionals in a brief filed in the Illinois appellate court against the "Blagojevich Rule," a regulation that would force Illinois pharmacists to dispense abortion-inducing drugs

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

At our last meeting, Joshua Whitfield (director of Faith Formation and Education at St. Rita) discussed the biblical and historical roots of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Biblical documentation of physical anointing are numerous (Matt 4:23-25, John 9:6-7, Matt 12:13-14), and the Apostles were given direct authority by Jesus to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2). Once this authority was established and practiced in the book of Acts (and specific instruction to anoint with oil in James 5:14-15), the Catholic Church has continued this authority today.

Various practices of healing existed in the early Church which eventually led to the practice of "Extreme Unction" at the deathbed of many Christians. Theological criticism of the Sacrament during the Reformation led to its refocus and redefinition in its use today.

We are encouraged as physicians to: consider the administration of the sacrament to our patients (and not solely those near death), and to realize the spiritual presence within physical healing. Often one might see our medical vocation as a purely material process without considering that there is a spiritual dimension in its administration. Let us continue to compassionately understand and meet our patients' spiritual needs as they seek our care and to intercede for them that they may find physical healing.

Next meeting: The Vocation of the Catholic Physician



You know the scenario: Packed waiting rooms. ICD 9 codes. Making sure prescribed medications do not require prior authorizations. Remembering to enter the modifier. The endless paperwork sitting on the desk at the end of the day, each one with the words "ASAP" or "Third Request" bolded at the top of them. These are the poignant images in the work of the physician.

Often it is hard to remember the meaning of our vocation of physicians, especially in the midst of busy days. Deacon Michael Bolesta, MD will touch on these issues as he discusses The Vocation of a Catholic Physician at our next meeting on May 2 at the St Rita Cafeteria. Born in a Catholic family (oldest of five) in St Louis, he became evangelical at 18, and then returned to Catholic Church after 25 years (Easter in 1998, at St Rita). He was ordained a deacon 2006, serving at Holy Trinity. He is an associate professor of orthopaedic surgery (spine) at UT Southwestern. He is married and has a

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son. The talk will explore our fundamental vocation we share and how it undergirds our identity and our ministry. We hope to see you there!

As always, please RSVP for the meeting at StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com.

CMA members support/participate in Dallas-area events



CMA members supported important events this past month. On March 23rd we attended the Nationwide Rally for Religious Freedom that took place on the steps of Dallas City Hall. The rally's objective was to voice opposition to the current administrations' HHS contraception mandate policy which (we contend) infringes upon our First Amendment rights. The national CMA has been very active in voicing opposition on this issue in both print and on the airwaves.

Many members attended the 19th Annual Bishop's Pro Life Dinner on April 14, highlighted by actor John Schneider (actor of the movie October Baby). The CMA supports the Church's pro life initiatives. "Before you were formed in the womb, I knew you," (Jeremiah 1:5) echoes Dr. Talley Daniel, President of the St Rita Dallas Physician's Guild.

Others attended a talk at the University of Dallas by Dr Farr Curlin on Conscience and Conscious Refusals in the Practice of Medicine. "One of the bits I found compelling was Curlin's linking of conscience to conscientious practice," felt Dr William Stigall. "The practice of medicine *requires* physicians to be conscientious in order to provide good medical care. Conscientiousness is impossible without the physician's conscience being involved in his practice."

"Open my eyes to see clearly the wonders of your law" – Psalm 119:17