



## Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas April Newsletter

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### **The Metaphysics of Gender**

In our last meeting, Dr. Catherine Nolan from the University of Dallas (Dept. of Philosophy) discussed the metaphysics of gender identity and reviewed a spectrum of conditions that have been used to distinguish "woman" from "man". After discussing the various logical and semantic problems/limitations with these definitions, she proposed a disjunctive condition which might work, but even that may not accommodate all trans-gender individuals or be something all would agree with. An interesting discussion followed.



DO NO HARM CONFERENCE SERIES

**Preparing for the End of Life:  
Medical, Legal and Ethical Challenges**

**Save the Date: September 23, 2017**

University of Dallas 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for this not-to-be-missed conference featuring



**Bishop Michael Olson**  
Diocese of Fort Worth



**Father Tad Pacholczyk, PhD**  
National Catholic Bioethics Center



**Catherine Nolan, PhD**  
University of Dallas



**Greg Schleppebach**  
U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Secretariat



**Sister Suzanne Gross, F.S.E.**  
Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care



**Roy Heyne, MD**  
UT Southwestern Medical Center



**Ellen Dorn, Esq.**  
Catholic Bar Association Board

**Save the Date! Guild Conference on September 23 with  
great speakers!**

We are pleased to announce an upcoming conference planned on September 23 at the University of Dallas. Speakers (as seen above), include Fr. Thad Pacholczyk, Bishop Michael Olson, Greg Schleppebach, Dr. Roy Heyne, Dr. Catherine Nolan, Ellen Dorn, and Sr. Suzanne Gross. Topics include: Legal Documentation at End of Life, Palliative Care, Brain Death, Ethical Decisions in the Neonatal Period, Artificial Hydration and Nutrition, and Treatment Decisions at End of Life. Further details to follow. Our goal will be for CME credits to be available for all medical specialties.



## **The Doctor's Search for Meaning**

Dr. Javier Vinals, general surgeon turned IT entrepreneur, gave an insightful lecture for the American Public Philosophy Institute on April 22nd at the University of Dallas entitled, "The Doctor's Search for Meaning." He linked the epidemic of physician burnout to its root cause - the difficulty in finding meaning in contemporary medical practice. His current work in developing an EMR is motivated by this insight. Dr. Vinals said the patient-physician relationship is just that - a relationship. Our medical record should therefore aim at benefiting the patient's health through furthering that relationship. He showed that building an EMR with a sound philosophical basis is one way to make technology a cure for physician burnout rather than a cause. The lecture was the third of a three-part series on medical professionalism sponsored by the APPI. Further lectures regarding the philosophy of medicine are planned.

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## Fertility Care Conference July 19-22

The American Academy of Fertility Care Professionals will be holding a Fertility Care Conference at Grapevine on July 19-22. Topics include Recurrent Miscarriage and Treatment with Napro Technology, Hormonal Dysfunction and Mental Disorders, Review of Fertility Tracking Apps, Making Light at the end of the Transgender Tunnel, and others. Daily Mass will be offered. Speakers include Bishop Michael Olson, Dr. Thomas Hilgers, Monica Ashour, and Dr. Margarite Duane. For more information, click [here](#).

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"Illumined by faith, reason is set free from the fragility and limitations deriving from the disobedience of sin and finds the strength required to rise to the knowledge of the Triune God." - **St. Pope John Paul II, Fides et Ratio**

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