



Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas October Newsletter



Thanks to all who came to the Annual White Mass for Healthcare Professionals

We appreciate all who attended the Annual White Mass for Healthcare Professionals this past October 22 at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe. It was encouraging to see many physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, medical students, and other personnel from

many fields participate in this event. During the event, Bishop Kelly spoke to us about many of the Church's statements on healthcare, citing the teachings of St. John Paul II. At the reception, Deacon Bolesta reflected on the need to hold firm in our relationship with Christ given the many trials taking place in medicine (the bureaucratization of medicine, the unfavorable political environment to religious expression, etc.). During the event Bishop Kelly gave his blessing to all healthcare professionals involved. For our Guild, the White Mass has been the highlight of the year, and thanks to all who bring the light of Christ in their vocation of healthcare. Special thanks also to the Catholic Foundation, who sponsored the event.



National CMA Conference 2016

The National CMA Conference took place this past Oct 13-15 in Washington, DC. The theme was "The Virtuous Physician" and many of the talks discussed various principles involved in the formation of virtue in medical practice. Issues such as mercy, joy, humility, service, prayer, sacramental confession, the eucharist, and compassion at the end-of-life were some of the themes discussed. The Omni Hotel was a virtual spiritual retreat, with 24-hour Eucharistic adoration, frequent opportunities for confession, and Daily Mass. Mike Aquilina discussed the historical emergence of the hospital as an

outreach of the Church to care for the sick and dying. Bishop Connely discussed Pope Francis' *Evangelium Vitae* and its application into medicine - citing the importance of bringing the joy of Christ in our encounters when seeing patients. The highlight event was Donald Cardinal Wuerhl's celebration of the White Mass at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, as seen in the picture (perhaps you can see the white dot which is the Cardinals' Mitre). If you are interested in listening to an audio version of the talks, please let us know.



Guild meets with Sen. John Cornyn's Office about the Conscience Protection Act

In Washington, D.C., our Guild and the President of the Houston Guild met with Sen. Cornyn's office to advocate for the [Conscience Protection Act](#). The Act has already passed the House of Representatives but not the Senate - we asked Sen Cornyn to advocate (and perhaps sponsor) the act. As an example of the importance of the Act, [a nurse at Mt. Sinai hospital in New York was fired for refusing to participate in an elective abortion](#). She filed a lawsuit against the hospital but the presiding judge found that she must appeal to the HHS to make a ruling on the standards of medical responsibility on the case. The HHS did not make any ruling on the case and dropped the case when the hospital

[changed its policy](#). Part of the Conscience Protection Act would give healthcare providers the ability to take direct legal action in cases where conscience is being violated without having to appeal to the HHS - who currently has been absent in protection of conscience rights.

***"If there is any encouragement in Christ,
any solace in love,
any participation in the Spirit,
any compassion and mercy,
complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love,
united in heart, thinking one thing.."***

—Philippians 2:1-4



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