



# St Rita Dallas Physicians Guild

A Chartered Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

February 2012

## Upcoming events

- March 7 meeting after 5:30 Mass at St Rita's (Fr Bob to discuss [Growth in the Interior Life](#))
- April 12 Joint meeting with [Thomas More Society](#) (lecture by Austin Ruse on The Unborn Child in International Law)
- 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

### [USCCB reply to HHS mandate](#)

*Bishops issue statement in response to the "adjusted" HHS mandate*

### [USCCB action portal](#)

*More information with USCCB documentation, videos, and bishop statements pertaining to the contraception mandate (with links to write Congress)*

### [CMA executive director interview](#)

*John Berhany speaks to the Christian Broadcasting Network about the HHS mandate*

### [CMA president, female physicians respond](#)

*In response to 3 senators who declared contraception mandate a "victory for women's health," CMA president responds with an open letter*

## Our Call from Humanae Vitae....

The discussion at our last meeting – led by Bernadette May, RN - highlighted the encyclical [Humanae Vitae](#) ("Of Human Life"). In the encyclical, Pope Paul VI reflects on the significance of being created in the image and likeness of God and the authentic responses to this self-giving love emulated by our Father. We are similarly called to replicate this faithful, sacrificial, unitive love towards one another.

The most intimate calling to this Christ-like love is within the marital act of sexual intercourse as it communicates a complete union of two complementary beings. That which might disrupt this union – such as contraception – would diminish the unitive and procreative significance of the act and also violate its spiritual meaning.

The Church teaches in Humanae Vitae that the will of God is found within the law of the gospel and natural law. It was predicted by Pope Paul VI that once contraception became widespread, there would be an increase in infidelity, relaxation of sexual/moral standards, and the reduction of females to objects of pleasure. He also predicted that "with the help of grace practicing natural methods, it would strengthen marriage by increased attentiveness and communication, drive out selfishness and deepen responsibility." Hence, the divorce rate among Natural Family Planning users is about 2% while its effectiveness among "motivated couples" is 99%.

So the challenge given to physicians is to "continue constant in resolution always to support those lines of action which accord with faith and with right reason" and to become "fully proficient in this difficult field of medical knowledge."

## Introducing our chaplain



Fr. Bob Coerver is the Chaplain of the St Rita Dallas Physicians Guild. He is a native of Dallas, raised in St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and is a Jesuit Graduate (Class of '72). He has served in many roles such as Assistant Pastor at two local parishes (St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Elizabeth Seton), Director of Spiritual Formation at Holy Trinity Seminary, Director of the Office of Sacramental Life for the Diocese, and Director of Priestly Life and Ministry in 2003. In March 2005 he was assigned to Our Lady of the Lake Church in Rockwall, serving as Administrator until he was appointed Pastor. In July 2010 he was assigned as Pastor of Saint Rita Catholic Community.

Fr. Bob holds a Licentiate in Spiritual Theology from the (Jesuit) Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a Masters Degree in Counseling and Guidance from Texas A & M University -- Commerce (formerly East Texas State University).

We welcome Fr. Bob to our Guild and look forward to his spiritual direction for our organization. He also will be the speaker at our next meeting and will discuss **Growth in The Interior Life**, reflecting on the spiritual life pertaining to our lives as physicians. We hope to see you there! The meeting will take place after the 5:30 Mass on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Contact Us

[StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com](mailto:StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com)

Please RSVP for the meeting at [StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com](mailto:StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com).

## Welcome back from Honduras!



Parishioners of St. Rita Catholic Community (including Physician Guild member Dr. Carmen Wilson) returned February 12th from Honduras after completing the 8th annual Medical Mission in Sonaguera, Honduras. The clinic was held for 3 days, serving 661 patients.

The St Rita medical mission is unique in that it works in solidarity with Honduran doctors and nurses who also volunteer to serve the very poor that come from the surrounding mountain communities. The theme of the mission (that included an evangelization team) was “The Eucharist.” Our hope is always to come together as one community with our sister parish working as the body of Christ.

***In the formation of conscience the Word of God is the light for our path, we must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. We must also examine our conscience before the Lord's Cross. We are assisted by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, aided by the witness or advice of others and guided by the authoritative teaching of the Church, CCC 1785***