



Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas

May 2015 Newsletter

End-of-Life Directives for Catholic Physicians

In our last meeting, Ellen Dorn JD explained the end-of-life documentation that was created for our diocese by the St. Thomas Moore society at the request of Bishop Farrell. A standard, Texas Statutory Directive to Physicians currently exists that can be used by Texas citizens as documentation for end-of-life directives. However, a major moral issue with the document is that it includes hydration and nutrition as "artificial life sustaining support" that could be withdrawn if the patient has a "terminal condition" that "according to reasonable medical judgement will produce death."

So the St. Thomas Moore society created a Catholic Advance Directive to Physicians with certain variations to common advanced directives, such as the Texas Statutory Directive. For instance, there is a general directive that "those making decisions on my behalf be guided by the moral teachings of the Catholic Church....and to consult my priest, my bishop, and/or the National Catholic Bioethics Center." It also has a general directive that "Nutrition and hydration may not be withheld or withdrawn from me for the purpose of...hastening death." Another variation is that life sustaining treatment not be withdrawn during pregnancy.

A medical power of attorney also was created and in the language of the document, there is a statement that those making decisions on care of a patient be directed/guided by the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and to consult a priest, the bishop, or the National Catholic Bioethics Center if necessary.

These documents can be found on the Diocesan website under [End-of-Life Issues](#)

Next event: Joint meeting with the St. Basil Society (UT Southwestern)

In our next meeting, our Guild will jointly meet with the St. Basil Society of UT Southwestern. We will have a panel discussion of physicians from various specialties (internal medicine, pediatrics, Ob-Gyn, etc) and we will share with the medical students how our practice of Catholicity is distinctly manifest per specialty. The students are invited to attend to ask questions, and we are looking forward to fellowship with them.

The event will take place at UT Southwestern Room c2.106 (next to Gooch Auditorium), and all physicians are invited as there will be much room for discussion and open sharing. Any other specialties are invited as well so that the students might ask questions from them.

Physicians Guild attends Bishop's Pro Life Dinner



On April 18th, the Physicians Guild hosted a table at the Bishop's Pro Life Dinner. The event was emceed by Patrick Coffin, host of Catholic Answers radio show with special guest performance by Kathy Troccoli. Jonas and Tricia Roos received the Father Edwin Robinson Pro-Life person(s) of the year. Tricia courageously chose to give birth to her daughter Annabelle, who was diagnosed with Trisomy 18 in utero. Annabelle was able to live for 1 week surrounded by the love of her family. Her [story](#) served as an inspiration to all who attended, and is a realization for we physicians to uphold life in our vocations as healthcare providers.

Registration for this year's National Conference now open



This year's conference theme is "Healing the Wounded Culture" and will be held in Philadelphia from October 1-3, 2015 at the Loew's Philadelphia hotel. Registration is now open! Gianna Jensen (survivor of saline abortion, marathon runner, and famous pro life advocate) will be the keynote speaker. The meeting will be eligible for 14 CME credits. There will also be a pre-conference NFP forum that will discuss the scientific evidence for NFP that will be eligible for 2 hours of CME. Save the date!

“What attracts me to the homeland of heaven is the Lord’s call, the hope of loving Him finally as I have so much desired to love Him, and the thought that I shall be able to make Him loved by a multitude of souls who will bless Him eternally” - St. Therese of Lisieux