



St Rita Dallas Physicians Guild

A Chartered Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

August 2012

Upcoming events

- September 5 after the 5:30 PM Mass; Dr. Richard Dougherty to discuss *The Catholic Physician and the Voting Booth: Trends and Responsibilities*
- White Mass on Oct 18
- 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

[Study in Spain shows abortions double as contraception is promoted](#)

An article from the journal Contraception (Jan, 2011) shows that abortion increased from 5.5 to 11.5 abortions per 1000 women as contraceptive methods increased from 49 to 80% among women in Spain.

[Reckoning and Resolve: The Obama HHS Mandate](#)
[The Catholic Medical](#)

The political responsibilities of the Catholic physician



Dr. Richard Dougherty, professor of politics at the University of Dallas, will present a talk titled “**The Catholic Physician and the Voting Booth: Trends and Responsibilities.**” Dr. Dougherty received a B.A. in Political Science at Belmont Abbey College, an MA in Political Philosophy and Literature from the University of Dallas, and a PhD in Political Philosophy from the University of Dallas. He is the Director of the Center of Christianity and the Common Good at the University of Dallas. He is also the Chairman of the Department of Politics at the University of Dallas.

As always please RSVP to StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Last meeting – Moral Obligations of Nutrition and Hydration

In our July meeting we discussed an article published by Rev. Giorgio Giovanelli in the last edition of **The Linacre** (the Catholic Medical Association’s national journal) which discussed the history of moral, Catholic thought with regards to artificial nutrition and the most recent theological developments in the United States.

In short, the traditional teaching of the Church could be summarized in a statement by Pope John Paul II in March 2004 when he stated in an International Congress on Life Sustaining Treatments and the Vegetative State: “*I should like particularly to underline how the administration of water and*

Association releases a statement as the HHS mandate takes effect

[Faithful Citizenship Conference: Render Unto Caesar](#)

The Pro Life Committee of Dallas will hold a conference on September 8 at St Mark's to train and activate faithful citizens to become involved in the public square.

[The Dignity of Work](#)

Appropriate for the upcoming Labor Day weekend, Cheryl Dickow reflects on Laborem Exercens by Pope John Paul II, reflecting on the meaning of work.

[Contact Us](#)

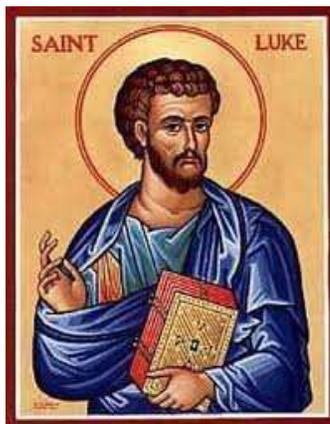
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food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act. Its use, furthermore, should be considered, in principle, ordinary and proportionate, and as such morally obligatory, insofar as and until it is seen to have attained its proper finality."

The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith set another "parameter" when it stated in an August 2007 document, [Commentary on Responses to Certain Questions Regarding Artificial Nutrition and Hydration](#): "When stating that the administration of food and water is morally obligatory in principle...the possibility is not absolutely excluded that, in some rare cases, artificial nourishment and hydration may be excessively burdensome for the patient or may cause significant physical discomfort, for example resulting from complications in the use of the means employed."

So in the meeting Msgr. Olson of Holy Trinity Seminary discussed the article, shared his own opinions on the topic, and the participating physicians had a discussion probing the moral parameters established by Church teaching and its clinical implications in patient care.

White Mass on October 18th



As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Diocesan White Mass for healthcare professionals will be held on October 18th at 6:30 PM at St. Rita Parish. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark Seitz and there will be a reception to follow in Sweeney Hall. The Mass is sponsored by the St Rita Physician Guild but is not limited to physicians, as all health care professionals are invited. There will be no charge. Please RSVP [here](#) at the St. Rita website.

During the reception we will have activity booths from other local diocesan organizations and we will have an annual membership renewal booth for the Guild.

The Society for Fertility Awareness Education begins at UTSW

This fall a medical student group at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School was created to bring proper education of fertility awareness based methods to an academic setting. It plans to train students to be instructors in natural family planning, conduct research studies, train patients and families in the methods, host a speaker series on campus, affect awareness

on campus and its curriculum, and provide scholarships for student rotations with NFP-only physicians. With controversy over artificial contraception heavily on the public radar, the group aims to make this alternative to family planning known so that it may hold a proper place in medical education. Considering its short and long-term programming, there is a large expected annual budget. If you would like to donate online follow [this link](#) and enter "Society of Fertility Awareness Education" in the "Designation" section of the webpage. For more information, contact Ashley.Stone@utsouthwestern.edu or Patricia.Rawicki@utsouthwestern.edu.

"To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right."– Confucius
