

February CPG Newsletter

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Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas February Newsletter



"Transitioning to Palliative Care in Childhood Cancer without Losing Hope"

Dr. Stephen Skapek spoke last meeting to our Guild. He is the Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology for Children's Hospital of Dallas, and has much experience dealing with the very difficult conversations for families of children who have cancer.

He reflected on the need to instill a sense of hope for his patients, even in the midst of extremely poor prognoses. "My job is take compassionate care of patients, but not necessarily to cure them," he said. Through coordinated, straight-forward, fact-filled language within a clinical team, accurate messages can be delivered to patients. Honesty that simultaneously does not instill a

false sense of hope is paramount.

Dr. Skapek outlined step-by-step "Day One" and "Day Two" conversations based on the course of care. There were certain "Day One" conversations for initial explanations of diagnosis and prognosis. Conversations shifted into "Day Two" conversations when relapses, complications, and poorer prognosis occurred.

We thank Dr. Skapek for his committed work in caring for children in this very difficult field of medicine.



Next meeting- "Healing Pornography"

The Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas will be hosting a recorded talk by Peter Kleponis, Ph.D., Assistant Director of the Institute of Marital Healing, who spoke at the national Catholic Medical Association Meeting on October 2, 2015 on "Healing Pornography." The talk was received very well by those that were present. The hope is for our audience to appreciate the inspirational quality of the material and the speakers at the National Conferences (the next one will take place this Oct 13-15 in Washington, DC).

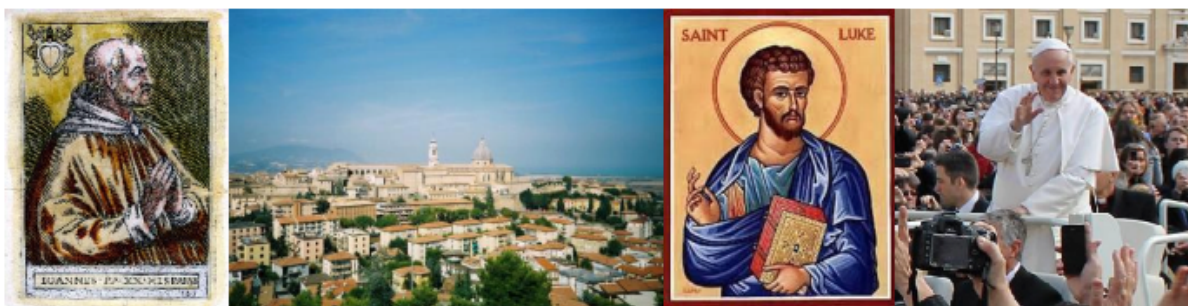
Peter C. Kleponis, Ph.D. is a Licensed Clinical Therapist and Assistant Director of Comprehensive Counseling Services in Conshohocken, PA. He holds an M.A. in Clinical-Counseling Psychology from LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA and a Ph.D. in General Psychology from Capella University in Minneapolis, MN. He specializes in marriage & family therapy, pastoral counseling, resolving

anger, men's issues, and pornography addiction recovery.



National Catholic Bioethics Center Seminar in Dallas April 8-9

We are excited that some of the world's foremost speakers in Catholic Bioethics will be holding a two-day seminar in Dallas in April. The seminar is part of NCBC's National Catholic Certification in Healthcare Ethics, but is open to all who are interested in attending. Topics will include the Ethical and Religious Directives, the ethics of stem cell research, complex questions of cooperation, sexual assault protocols, and determination of death among many other topics. The seminar will take place at the University of Dallas. For more information, click the NCBC website [here](#).



A Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy- Exploring Saints of Holiness and Healing

The St. Francis Medical Institute - a practice that strives to combine healing of body, mind, and soul in the Catholic tradition - will be organizing a pilgrimage to Italy geared towards those in the medical profession. The pilgrimage will take place from Oct 29- November 10 with stops in Rome, Naples, Assisi, and the Adriatic Coast. The sites will carry themes of medicine, healing, and mercy.

The retreat will be led by Fr. Jim Blount, SOLT, a priest with a healing ministry,

and Dr. Frank Averill, founder of the St. Francis medical institute.

For more information, click [here](#).

Feel free to invite all healthcare professionals to our meetings!

The National Catholic Medical Association, our Guild's parent organization, includes membership to all healthcare professionals. We are not exclusive to physicians! As such, we invite anyone who is in the healthcare field to attend our meetings. Our aim is to build a spirit of fellowship in our faith as Catholic healthcare professionals across all specialties and disciplines. So please feel free to forward this email to people you may know.

"For gracious and loving is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment" - Joel 2:12



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