



# St Rita Dallas Physicians Guild

A Chartered Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

February 2013

## Upcoming events

- March 6 – [Meaning of Christian Suffering](#)
- April 3 – [Catholicism in the Daily Practice](#)
- 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

[National CMA issues statement on latest HHS Compromise](#)

*On February 1, HHS issued another revision of the HHS contraception mandate to which CMA made an initial statement*

[Catholic Medical Association participates in National March for Life](#)

## Next meeting's topic: The Meaning of Christian Suffering



At the next meeting we will be discussing Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, *Salvifici Doloris* (Meaning of Suffering, 1984). With Lent as our backdrop, we will discuss the meaning of Christian suffering as detailed by Pope John Paul II. Although the secular world may see only tragedy and irony in suffering, we are taught that suffering truly has a redemptive and salvific value in its endurance. The Christian learns that we can actually find meaning in the embrace of suffering.

Our presenter will be Father John Szatkoski, the vocations director of the Diocese of Dallas. Please RSVP to our email address - [StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com](mailto:StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!

## Summary of February Meeting

In last month's meeting, Dr. Tom Zellers discussed the issue of Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD). As was seen in our presentation, the definitions and protocols used in DCD are relatively recent in development. The different standards of DCD were presented, with the most variation surrounding the amount of time given to determine cessation of cardiac function once cardiac supportive meds are discontinued. IOM believes that 2-5 minutes are acceptable, but much dissimilarity exists nationally. Dr. Zellers helped develop the protocol at his hospital and described its use and implementation clinically to his patient population.

The Church believes that organ procurement is an ethically acceptable action. Pope John Paul II stated that organ donation "*performed in an ethically acceptable manner,*" proclaims the *Gospel of Life* as "*offering a chance of health and even life itself to the sick who sometimes have no hope,*" and constitutes "*a gesture which is a genuine act of love . . . by giving something of ourselves.*" The most important moral questions during DCD are whether the

*The national CMA assembles its largest contingent to march in union in Washington, DC.*

[CPLC will have an exclusive viewing of the Pro Life Movie "Crescendo"](#)

*A new pro-life movie will be shown at the Angelika theater on February 28 at 8 PM. Tickets are \$5 each and benefit the CPLC.*

**Contact Us**

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determination of cardiac death has been medically sufficient and whether the donor is treated with continued totality and integrity throughout the process (for instance, the patient's integrity would be preserved in the use of treatments that do not constitute excess burden such as arterial cannulation/balloon catheterization).

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## Executive Director of CMA gives talk at the University of Dallas

This past month, the board was blessed to have dinner with John Brehany, the



executive director of the Catholic Medical Association, who was in town to give a talk on the subject of conscience protection at the University of Dallas on February 10.

“Learn, prepare and act” was the simple yet supplicating call to action that he left for the approximately 60 students and faculty members who attended his lecture, “Conscience in Healthcare.”

“Fifty years ago, no one could tell a physician what to do – which is where the saying ‘doctor’s orders’ came from,” Brehany said. Now, that is no longer the case, and both individuals and institutions are forced to perform actions and provide services to which they are morally opposed.

See the rest of the article from the University of Dallas News [here](#)

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## Pro Life Doctors asked to support Senate Bill 537

We have been contacted by Anne Newman of the Women’s Wellness Coalition of Texas to help support legislation currently filed this State Legislative Session.

Texas Senators Donna Campbell, M.D., Robert Deuell, M.D., and Charles Schwertner, M.D., have filed Senate Bill 537 to require that abortion facilities meet the same standards of care as ambulatory surgical centers. The bill adds this sentence to the Health and Safety Code: On and after September 1, 2014, the minimum standards for an abortion facility must be equivalent to the minimum standards adopted under Section 243.010 for ambulatory surgical centers.

Abortion facilities should not be exempt from the standards of care that other out-patient surgical facilities must meet, especially since abortion is much riskier than many other out-patient surgeries.

Already abortion supporters are attacking Senate Bill 537. Planned Parenthood President and CEO of Greater Texas, Ken Lambrecht, said that “this bill is part

of Governor Rick Perry's plan to end safe, legal abortion in Texas." The Texas director of National Abortion Rights Action League said the bill is directed at reducing abortion access in Texas.

To help ensure that Texas Medical Association (TMA) does not oppose this bill, it is asked that doctors call and express support for it. In the past, 43 physician TMA members have made their voice heard to influence the TMA on abortion-related legislation.

Here are the actions we can take:

1. Call the Texas Medical Association at (512) 370-1300 to express support for Senate Bill 537. Ask that the TMA support it, as well.
2. Please share this information with like-minded physicians.
3. Send an email to Anne Newman-- at [anne@wwctx.com](mailto:anne@wwctx.com) -- to let her know if we made the call
4. Consider testifying in Senate in support of the bill – Anne will arrange for this.

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## UTSW has successful week of lectures on Fertility Awareness

UTSW had a series of lectures this past February 11-15 on Fertility Awareness Based Methods of patient treatment. Lectures presented included the various methods of Natural Family Planning, Napro Technology and the use of charting to logically diagnose and treat women's diseases, Teen Education on Sexuality, and incorporation of NFP into a practice setting. An NFP user panel was also presented. The lectures were well attended, with 40-50 persons each day (medical students, PA students, attending physicians, and non-medical participants). "For me it was great to hear about Fertility-Based Awareness methods used in various contexts to diagnose and treat women," echoed Kristin Kuhn, MS1 at UT Southwestern.

**The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.**

**The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple – Psalm 19:8**