



St Rita Dallas Physicians Guild

A Chartered Guild of the Catholic Medical Association

Septmber 2012

Upcoming events

- White Mass on Oct 18 – there will be no Wednesday meeting this month.
- 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

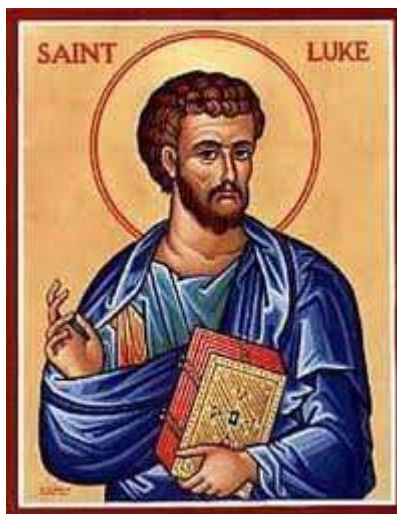
[Annual National CMA Conference takes place Sept 26-30](#)

Please pray for our local members who will be attending this year's national conference in St. Paul, MN

[Cardinal Dolan gives closing benediction at DNC](#)

Kudos to Cardinal Dolan for praying for life and conscience at the DNC and RNC

Annual White Mass next month on October 18th!!



The tradition of the White Mass in the United States finds its origins in the development of the national Catholic Medical Association in the early 1930s. From its inception, the medical profession has been understood as a healing profession, a way in which Christ's work continues upon the earth. Moreover, since the apparitions at Lourdes in the late 19th century, the plight of the infirmed- and those who care for them- have taken on renewed appreciation in participating in the mysteries of Christ's own life. The White Mass, so named by the white coat worn by those in the healing profession of medicine,

gathers health care professionals under the patronage of St. Luke to ask God's blessing upon the patient, healthcare worker, and caregiver alike.

We are very excited to present this year's Mass, which will take place on the feast day of St Luke the physician, October 18th. Mass will begin at 6:30 PM and will be celebrated by Bishop Mark Seitz. Reception will follow at Sweeney Hall.

The Mass and reception are complimentary, with optional \$10 donations to the St. Rita Dallas Physicians Guild being accepted. The event is not limited to physicians, so please invite fellow healthcare workers.

There will be booths to interface with other groups, including the St Basil UTSW medical student society, the White Rose women's center, the Catholic Pro Life Committee, Society for Fertility Awareness (of UTSW), TOBET (Theology of the Body Evangelization Team), North Dallas Shared Ministries, and the Honduras Medical Mission.

There will also be an opportunity to renew annual memberships as well.

Seating is limited, so please RSVP [here](#) if you plan to attend.

[Archbishop Chaput urges end to the death penalty](#)

Archbishop of Philadelphia states that even even justly convicted murderers “retain their God-given dignity as human beings.”

[St Basil Medical Students recognized by Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Article written up by OSV recognizing the Catholic witness by medical students at UT Southwestern

[Contact Us](#)

StRitaDallasCMA@gmail.com

Last meeting – The Political Responsibility of the Catholic Physician

In our last meeting, Dr. Richard Dougherty (chairman of the Department of Politics at the University of Dallas) discussed the history of the Catholic vote in the Presidential election. The Catholic vote has historically been significant. Since 1972, the eventual winner of the Presidential election has carried the Catholic vote (except for the Bush in the 2000 election).

In the mid-20th century, the Catholic vote was usually Democrat. However, towards the end of the century, after certain events such as the Vietnam War and Roe vs Wade, the Catholic vote gradually became more Republican. But by no means is the Catholic vote homogenous. Currently, there is a direct correlation that Catholics who regularly attend Mass tend to vote Republican, and Catholics who do not regularly attend Mass tend to vote Democrat.

Since the Catholic vote is significant, what is the political responsibility of the Church to inform their congregation? Pope Benedict XVI wrote in [Deus Caritas Est](#) that “*the Church ... recognizes that it is not the Church's responsibility to make (her) teaching prevail in political life. Rather, the Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly.*”

He later states that “*The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper. A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church.*”

At the same time, the Church must declare that certain absolute truths do currently exist in society. “*A well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law that contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals*” ([Congregation in the Doctrine of the Faith](#)). An example of these are the “Five non-negotiables”: abortion, human cloning, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, and homosexual marriage.

See the USCCB’s document on [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#) for further reference

St. Rita Dallas Physicians Guild meetings to qualify for CME!

We are pleased to announce that certain meetings (specifically those that are directly related to the practice of medicine, such as our August meeting discussing artificial hydration) will qualify for one hour of CME accredited through Children's Medical Center of Dallas. Certain meetings will be qualified for one hour of ethics CME.

We will announce ahead of time which meetings will qualify for CME, specifically the "hard-to-find" one hour of required ethics. CME is free for our members, so please renew your annual membership!

***Indeed someone might say,
"You have faith and I have works."
Demonstrate your faith to me without works,
and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works –
James 2:18***
