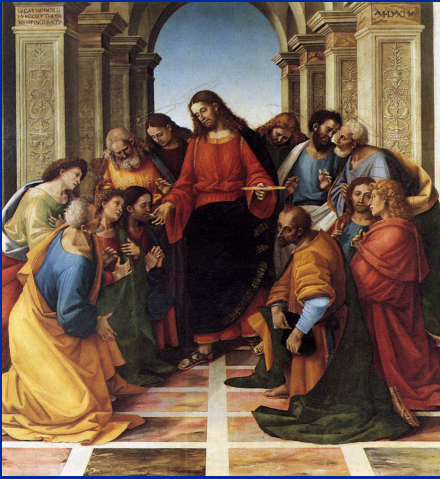


CHRIST MEDICUS

A LIVING HEALTH CARE MINISTRY Fall 2015 Newsletter



Comunione con gli Apostoli, Luca Signorelli

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE CHRIST MEDICUS FOUNDATION

Make a glad sound to the Lord, all the earth. Give worship to the Lord with joy; come before him with a song. Be certain that the Lord is God; it is he who has made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep to whom he gives food. Come into his doors with joy, and into his house with praise; give him honour, blessing his name. For the Lord is good, and his mercy is never-ending; his faith is unchanging through all generations

Psalms 100

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus toward you

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Protect Rights of Conscience and Religious Liberty in Health Care!

Message from Mike O'Dea, Founder and Executive Director of the Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF)

The Christ Medicus Foundation has been leading the way for Health Care Conscience Rights since its inception in 1999. In cooperation with the United States Catholic Conference (USCCB) and many other leaders in Washington DC we were finally able to get legislation that will restore our conscience rights and religious liberty in health care. It is urgent that we all work together in this congressional session to pass legislation that will protect the most fundamental liberty our founding forefathers courageously fought for.

Tell Congress that government must not force Americans to violate their religious and moral beliefs about respect for life when they provide health services or provide or purchase health coverage. With this current Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA) (H.R. 320, sec. 520 (d) and (e)), the promise of the Founders, that Americans would not be forced by their government to violate their deepest convictions of conscience, will at last be fulfilled in the modern health care system.

Now is the time to urge Congress to protect our rights of conscience and religious liberty. For the future of our freedom, please urge your elected representatives to support ANDA, H.R. 320. Ask your federal legislators to include this bill's policy in must-pass legislation this year. Please take action today at www.christmedicus.org! Through our web site you can locate your U.S. Representative and Senator.

Without our legislators hearing from you they will not take action. The reality is that if we don't demonstrate to our political leaders that we want the freedom guaranteed to us in the Constitution and clearly stated in the Declaration of Independence, they will not take action. **Freedom is not free. It is earned and sacrificed for. We all have the responsibility to protect the freedoms given to us by our founding forefathers.**

Thank you for taking the time today to speak out in defense of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, not just for us but for our children and grandchildren in the generations to come. Together we will be heard!

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Protect Rights of Conscience and Religious Liberty in Health Care! (continued)

Congress has also introduced a companion bill to H.R. 940, the Health Care Conscience Rights Act (S.1919) in the Senate (08/04/2015):

Amends title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to declare that nothing in that title requires an individual to purchase individual health insurance coverage that includes coverage of an abortion or other item or service to which the individual has a moral or religious objection, or prevent an issuer from offering coverage excluding such item or service to that individual.

Denies that title I requires a health plan sponsor or a health insurance issuer to cover an item or service to which the sponsor or issuer has a moral or religious objection.

Denies also that title I authorizes imposition of a tax, penalty, fee, fine, or other sanction, or imposition of coverage of such an item or service, on health insurance coverage that excludes such an item or service.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to codify the prohibition against any action by the federal government and any state or local government receiving federal financial assistance to subject a health professional, or

health care facility, organization, or plan to discrimination on the basis that the entity refuses to participate in abortion-related activities.

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to designate the Director of the Office for Civil Rights of HHS to receive and investigate complaints alleging a violation of this abortion discrimination prohibition.

Creates a cause of action for the Attorney General or any person or entity adversely affected to obtain equitable or legal relief for any violation of this abortion discrimination prohibition. Allows commencement of an action and the granting of relief without a prerequisite pursuit of administrative remedies. Allows such an action against a federal or state governmental entity.

Committees:	Senate - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Latest Action:	08/04/2015 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.



The Inscrutable Designs of Divine Providence

A Reflection by Michael Vacca

In Isaias 55:8-9, the Lord makes clear what many of us know from experience. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts: nor your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are exalted above the earth, so are my ways exalted above your ways, and my thoughts above your thoughts." The more we ponder the mysterious ways of Divine Providence, the more we conclude what Socrates famously concluded, which can be paraphrased as follows, "I know that I do not know." The most wise and learned among us cannot penetrate the least of God's mysteries without a superabundance of illuminating grace. This has certainly been my experience.

In my adult life, my journey began at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI. There I discovered the love of learning and the importance of virtue. There I learned the true meaning of education: preparing a person, the whole person, to fulfill their vocation and be the person God wants them to be. There I converted and recognized my absolute dependence upon God. There I fell in love with

the wooer of hearts who captivated me with the ideals of holiness, passion, and love.

Proceeding along, the next step of my journey was Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, MI and Naples, Florida. There I learned the tools to defend the truth about human life and family, and the art of persuasion. There I learned that the vocation of the human person is intercommunion and love. There I learned about the indispensable role of the family in protecting human persons and making possible the good of an entire society. There I began to get a glimmer of God's personal vocation for me. I emerged with a greater appreciation for the human person and a greater commitment to live the Gospel of Life in thought, word, and deed.

Proceeding yet further, I went to Rome to serve the Holy See as a legal advisor and work for the protection of human life and the family, and the advancement of the Catholic faith. There I learned of the unreliable and sinful

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The Inscrutable Designs of Divine Providence (continued)

nature of man, both others and myself. There I learned the painful reality of being separated from loved ones and how to let God's love suffice. There I discovered the cross and accepted, although begrudgingly at times, the invitation of Jesus to carry my cross and follow him. There I learned that God had given me gifts of words and expression, gifts of resilience and faith, and the ultimate gift of loving God above all else. There I learned that these gifts were not for fun or profiting myself; these gifts were for the good of the Church and Christ was calling me to hone and develop these gifts as tools for a future battle between life and death, between good and evil.

Being well acquainted with the cross, I thought I was ready for my vocation to begin. Little did I know that what I experienced in Rome was only a glimpse of the struggle I was to endure for the next two years. Although I earnestly sought God's will and sought to grow in holiness and realize his vision for my life, I was constantly rejected. No one was interested in my professional abilities and education; I could not find a job to even provide for my needs. Even worse, no trustworthy woman was attracted to me and willing to serve the Lord with me. I was even told that I was too religious and that no woman would desire me, especially without a job. On the brink of despair, I cried out to God, but still, the agony endured. Truly, there was no comfort for me upon earth. No one understood the pain in my heart but the Lord. But for the Lord and a dear friend and brother in Christ, I would certainly have despaired; and nearly did. But the story was just beginning and God was preparing my heart for everlasting joy. During this time, I was advancing in the spiritual life and receiving such amazing, charismatic, and prophetic gifts. Since that time, I have been able to speak to the Lord freely and hear him clearly.

Then I met my angel, my future wife. She invited me to a wedding and the Lord began to reveal that she was the one He had prepared for me. Six days prior to October 1st, the feast of my patron saint, Saint Therese of Lisieux, she told me that God had told her that I was her husband again and again. I nearly died of joy. Without a job and with a clear sense of a vocation that would involve lots of joy and suffering, she said yes to me without any reservations. The thing she loved the most was, as she said, my holiness. It seemed too good to be true, but it was and always will be true: the Lord had given me my angel, the love of my life.

But the agony of being unable to provide for myself and now her was intensified. I went from document review project to document review project, uncertain whether I would actually work from day to day. I desperately needed a miracle and so the Lord prompted Louis Brown to contact me about a position with Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) CURO. I had providentially met Louis about a year prior to the launch of CMF CURO. I took the personality test, went for the interview, and began working within 2 days. I soon discovered that CMF CURO was not only a really good position; it was the perfect job for me.

Daily, I am utilizing communication and analytical skills in educating members about the process of health sharing and why it is worth doing. I am utilizing my discernment and prophetic gifts in praying for members and advising them to seek the Lord in everything. I am using my background in pro-life and pro-family issues to protect the Catholic identity of CMF CURO. I am using my background in intercessory prayer to sustain the ministry and our members. In all of these things, Jesus Christ is glorified. I am more convinced than ever that healthcare is a vital battlefield between the culture of death and the culture of life. I see CMF CURO as a means of evangelizing and a necessary proof in our culture that when you put everything on the line for God, God always comes through and surpasses our most optimistic expectations.

But my position working for CMF CURO also entails assisting the Christ Medicus Foundation more broadly. Due to my experience working with the Holy See and knowledge of pro-life, pro-family issues, and religious freedom issues from both a clerical and a lay perspective, I am able to advise the Christ Medicus Foundation on moral matters and help to further the vital work of the Christ Medicus Foundation in transforming our healthcare culture into a Christ-centered one. I am able to assist in educating and writing, editing and proposing, reflecting and communicating, all in the service of promoting the New Evangelization in the healthcare arena. My own miraculous healing from kidney stones also allows me to build the faith of people and remind them that Jesus Christ is the answer to the problems of healthcare and all other problems.

It is truly an honor to serve the Christ Medicus Foundation in its important work of evangelization, furthering protections for conscience rights, and advancing the Gospel of Life in the healthcare arena!



El Camino de Santiago

by Louis Brown

The Way of St. James, El Camino de Santiago, has been for centuries one of the great three Christian pilgrimages in the World along with pilgrimages to Jerusalem and Rome. Although few pilgrims embarked upon the Camino in the late 1970s, an extraordinary surge in pilgrims began in the 1980s that has exploded into hundreds of thousands of pilgrims completing the pilgrimage each year. Why do they go now? Why, in 2015, with the most amazing technology that mankind has ever seen, with the greatest advances in the world, with the ability to go on leisurely trips or to merely stay home and watch football or reality TV, why do hundreds of thousands of people hike anywhere from 60 to 400 miles with only the possessions they can carry on their back? Why do they go? And why should we go either literally or figuratively as well?

The pilgrims go on the Way of St. James for many reasons, but perhaps most pilgrims go on this journey in search of truth, healing, forgiveness, greater freedom, peace, and beauty. In short, whether they know this or not, pilgrims go in search of Jesus Christ. Because He is infinite and is the author of all that is good, Our Lord uses the beauty of nature, the clarity of silence, the fulfillment of exercise, the interchange of community, and the journey on the road to present Himself to us. In these things, He gives us a glimpse of the infinite beauty, strength, mercy, love, and tenderness of God. He uses all that is good to bring us closer to Him who is love.

Amazing as the Camino is and in as much as I encourage you all to do this pilgrimage, the ultimate reality that the Camino presents, Jesus, is available to us now. As a priest once said, we simply have to be aware of His presence. And so, in many ways, the experience of the Camino is available to us now. We can take time for silence now. We can engage our family as our foundational community now. We can take a walk outside while praying the rosary now. We can accompany our brothers and sisters in Christ at work now. We can receive the strength and peace of God through the Eucharist and adoration now. We can go to confession now. We can forgive ourselves and others in His name now. We can live in the infinite beauty, truth, love, and mutual giving of Our Lord now.

God gives us the mountains, the hikes, the amazing sunsets, and the dawn to know the earthly realities of his love. He gives us the constant and unceasing opportunity to gaze upon Him at each and every moment of our lives to engage the full reality of who He is. We do not need to go on the Camino to find Him. He is present now. The Way of St. James was ultimately, the Way to Jesus Christ. And so I encourage you, go on the Camino now. And go on the Camino de Santiago as soon as you can.



Thank You

I would like to thank the Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) for their ongoing faithful expertise in Catholic health care. I want to particularly thank your organization for putting on the “Make Straight the Pathway Conference” in San Francisco in 2012 where Mr. Robert Atwell, a leader in the Diocese of Greenbay, Wisconsin was introduced and motivated to provide the leadership in setting up a new revolutionary model for Catholic Health Care. CMF provided tremendous spiritual and legal support throughout our journey of opening a new Catholic teaching clinic. CMF’s tireless dedication and assistance was evident throughout! Thank you so much! We are truly grateful!

Robin Goldsmith, MD
President and CMO, St Gianna Clinic
Greenbay, Wisconsin

Please Support the Christ Medicus Foundation

Since the Christ Medicus Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, our work protecting Catholic health care in public policy and facilitating the development of faithful Catholic Medical Centers is dependent on the prayers and financial contributions of the individuals who receive this newsletter. Please be as generous as possible. God has blessed us all differently in what we can afford to give. **Whether it be a gift of \$10, \$100, or \$1,000, it will go a long way to help in providing solutions to protect religious liberty and freedom to choose Christ-centered health care.**

Through the grace of God and His Holy Spirit, CMF has accomplished great things. I am so thankful for all of you that have supported our ministry over the past 17 years and for all of you that will continue to be supportive of CMF’s witness to the New Evangelization in Catholic Health Care. **The growth of our ministry is directly dependent on the generosity of our supporters. Please make your donation today and return to Christ Medicus Foundation, P.O. Box 530901, Livonia, MI 48153 or donate online at www.christmedicus.org.**

Prayer Intentions

As a community, we encourage you to pray one memorare daily for the following intentions:

- the spiritual and physical needs of the Members of the ministry and those who serve the ministry,
- the healing, conversion, and flourishing of the world through the Holy Spirit,
- the conversion of fallen away family members, coworkers, friends, and acquaintances this coming Christmas,
- an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our American culture, particularly in health care,
- the protection of the unborn,
- the protection of the spiritually, physically, and materially impoverished,
- the protection of persecuted Christians, all religious minorities, and religious liberty,
- the Church and her obedience to the Holy Spirit, and
- Pope Francis’ intentions.

Let us pray:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



Brooks Cross and family

Praised be Jesus Christ. In His great mercy, God led our family to CMF CURO when we were prayerfully seeking a healthcare solution that stands apart from what St. John Paul II called the “culture of death”. Because CURO is truly Catholic in its affirmation of the Gospel of Life, we can contribute—freely and wholeheartedly out of Christian charity—to the medical needs of our brothers and sisters, and they to ours, without compromising our consciences on matters of faith and morals.

I first found out about CMF CURO because I couldn’t afford my health insurance rates. Our family has been abundantly blessed with the service, love and care they have for each individual in our family. We experienced a very fast response with a most recent medical episode. I was curious to see if there promises were true. Yes indeed! We are blessed to be part of the CMF CURO family.

Terry Cassell
 President
 Christians In Commerce
www.christiansincommerce.org



I took a leap of faith and chose CMF CURO, a Catholic insurance alternative, after I resigned from my job last November. What a relief it was to sign up before the end of 2014 - as a law abiding citizen through a creative option. Now I feel more directly and consciously involved in bringing a culture of life.

Scholastica Frisinger



Feeling skeptical at first, I was unsure about how this health care sharing ministry could work. I felt that I was risking losing the security that traditional insurance would provide. Even so, I felt very strongly that traditional insurance had become a forced participation in many evils such as abortion, contraception, etc. I made the decision to join CURO with a bit of arrogance thinking that I had been so healthy and had never had any health problems before so I wouldn’t probably need any health care anyway so at least I would not be giving my monthly payment to a traditional insurance company.

Then GOD showed me His power in my life in an intimate way! 5 months after I joined, I was rushed to the hospital emergency room with horrible pain in my right side. After a month of treatments to clear up a serious kidney infection, I was approved for surgery to remove a very large kidney stone that was partially obstructing my right kidney. Praise God! My surgery went well and I am completely healed. After getting well, my second concern was how to pay off the medical bills!

Then GOD showed up again in my life to show His power and mercy! As the medical bills came in so did the offer of discounts on those bills! Then the checks started coming in from all over the country with notes of encouragement and prayers. I couldn’t wait for the mail each day and would find myself crying tears of gratitude for all those faithful souls that I had not even been aware of before. All of my medical bills are paid off. But more importantly, I am so much more aware of how God works in each person’s life each and every day. My dear Lord gave me a cross to carry in order to show me His mercy. I would never have had this experience if it hadn’t been for CURO and Samaritan Ministries. Many times I have been brought to my knees, greatly humbled by the power of God working through my brothers and sisters in Christ as my spiritual and financial needs were met through this ministry!

Cathy Merritt
 Snellville, GA



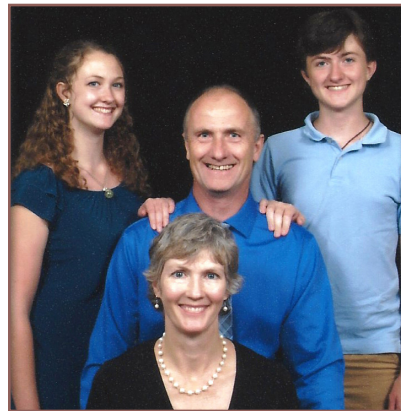
I chose to join CMF CURO and Samaritan Ministries so I could know that my health care money is going to Godly services. I am also confident that this Christian ministry is blessed by God as is my family in being a part of it.

Ceci Matthews and family



It is a blessing to know that when we have a baby or a string of emergency room visits we don't have to suffer from high deductibles. We also love belonging to a community of serious Catholics who care for each other's needs.

Carisa and Will Feierabend
 and Nick, Zoe, Theo, Oscar, Louie, Gemma, and Felicity



For years we had traditional health insurance provided as an option as an employee. When Obamacare came into being and forced employer-sponsored health insurance plans provide for abortion services, contraception and other options that went totally against my family's moral convictions I started to look around for alternatives. I came across 'Christian Medishare', a Christian (but not Catholic) medical sharing program which was exempt from the Obamacare mandate. It was appealing and we signed up.

We had three kids in college and one still being home schooled. When my eldest daughter Rosemary turned 23 years old, they ceased to cover her even though she was still a full time student in college. This was a big problem for us as she was now required to have her own plan which was unaffordable. Right around this time I heard an advert on our local catholic radio station "St. Gabriel 820AM" for CMF CURO – a Catholic medical health sharing program which not only covers adult children who are still in full-time education or still living with their parents, but also held the same core beliefs and teachings of our Roman Catholic Church. This was our answer and we signed up. Although we have not had a claim thus far, I believe the sharing process to be very simple and the prayer sharing very beneficial. And one extra benefit, our sharing portion is about 30% less with CMF CURO than it was with our previous sharing program.

Mark and Judy Hedge and family

We have to choose whether we will live according to the world's idea of security or the Gospel's call to radical trust in the sufficiency of God. He provides--through His people, through miracles, through untold grace which redeems our suffering. With CMF CURO, we choose the Gospel way.

Sara Lynn Gafford

CHRIST  MEDICUS

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