



### CMF CURO goes to Washington

*Updates on our efforts at the nation's Capitol*

The Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) and CMF CURO are driving much of the future of Catholic health care in America.

As part of your membership with CMF CURO, you are not only receiving the benefits of this Catholic community, but you are directly building the culture of life that Pope St. John Paul II asked us to create.

Whether it be working with Catholic medical professionals nationwide to increase access to truly Catholic health care, educating Congress about protecting life and religious freedom in health care, informing Congress about the opportunity to provide greater support in federal law for individuals and families that do health sharing, or supporting the efforts of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Medical Association to protect Catholic health care, we seek to carry out this mission to restore the culture of life. And of course, we continue to build up the Catholic health care community that is CMF CURO. Each and every CMF CURO member is important.

Our director Louis Brown works with pro-life medical providers, Catholic medical professionals, and Catholic organizations nationwide to broaden access to pro-life medical care and educate the American Catholic community about the value of health sharing.

We've taken our work all the way to the top!

Brown, along with a group of eleven other individuals



Jason Calvi @jcalvi · 2h  
Listener-in-Chief: @POTUS hears @CMFCURO's Louis Brown speak about #prolife cause/value of protecting healthcare workers' conscience rights. pic.twitter.com/4Rce0igs11

Brown speaks to President Trump at the listening session in March. from across the country, met with President Donald Trump at a listening session on health care reform in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in March. Brown spoke directly to the President about the importance of prohibiting taxpayer funding of abortion. The [video clip](#) has been viewed hundreds of thousands of times across the world just in the last few weeks.

Watch coverage of the meeting [here](#), as well as a video of the full meeting [here](#).

Additionally, Brown has been active on Capitol Hill meeting with Members of Congress, U.S. Senators, congressional staff, and media outlets to educate them and the American public about:

- The [Conscience Protection Act of 2017](#) that would help protect the religious freedom of Catholic medical professionals and health care entities. This bill, introduced in the House and Senate this year, is essential to safeguarding the right of doctors, medical professionals, and health care entities to

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Brown (right) meets with Sen. Lankford (R-Oklahoma) at a panel discussing the devastating impact of physician-assisted suicide.

be free from discrimination when they refuse to provide, participate in, refer, or otherwise facilitate an abortion;

- Prohibiting taxpayer funding of abortion in health care reform legislation (a legal protection commonly referenced as ‘Hyde Amendment’ protections);
- Providing health sharing households, like yours, with equal access to health savings accounts, tax credits, and exemptions under federal law.

Brown has met with groups and individuals including:

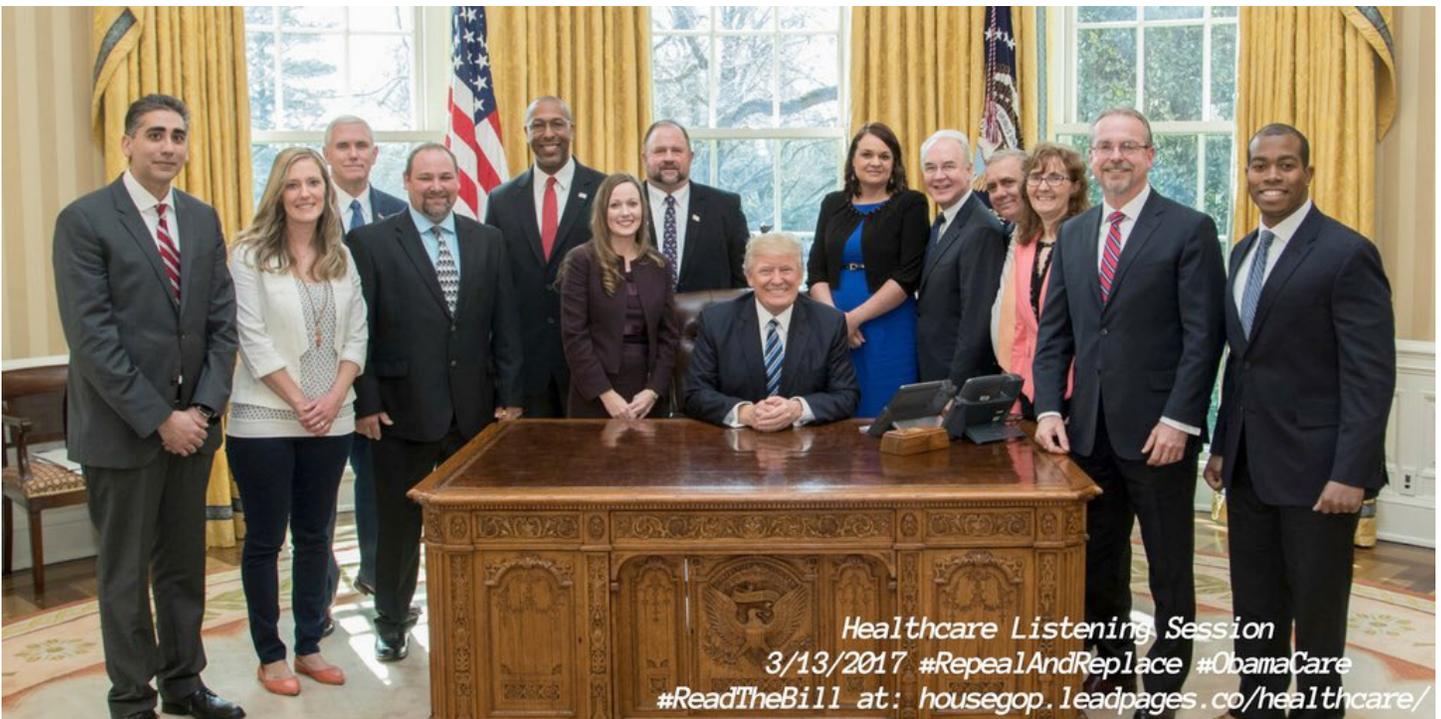
- The House Values Action Team, a coalition of pro-life and pro-religious freedom groups
- Senator James Lankford (R-Oklahoma) (pictured left)
- the U.S. House Pro-Life Caucus
- Various congressman and congresswomen
- Office of the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee

Check out our website for weekly [This Week in Washington](#) updates on all our work in D.C.

The Christ Medicus Foundation and CMF CURO are actively serving to build a culture of life. Your membership in CMF CURO is helping to win the battle for life in health care.



Brown with Sr. Constance of the Little Sisters of the Poor, the order which opposed in court the HHS mandate of the Affordable Care Act.



Healthcare Listening Session |  
 3/13/2017 #RepealAndReplace #ObamaCare  
 #ReadTheBill at: [housegop.leadpages.co/healthcare/](http://housegop.leadpages.co/healthcare/)

Brown (far right) with President Trump at the White House after the health care listening session in March.



## Letter from the Founder

By Michael O'Dea, Founder of the Christ Medicus Foundation

What responsibility do we as Catholics, Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF), and CMF CURO members have to restore Catholic Social teaching in health care?

In discerning an answer to this question, we first turn to prayer and ask God to use us and whatever knowledge and expertise we have to help in whatever way we can. In doing so, we realized we had to understand the four primary principles of Catholic social teaching and how they apply to the mission of the Foundation.

The four primary principles of Catholic social teaching provide us the road map to respond to our role as Catholics to give witness to the gospel of life in health care.

- *Dignity of the Human Person:* According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the first principle is anchored in the Catholic commitment to defend human life, from conception until natural death, and in the fundamental moral obligation to respect the dignity of every person as a child of God.
- *Common Good:* The second principle recognizes that each individual is part of a larger community with individual rights and responsibilities to be respected.
- *Solidarity:* The third principle is given to us by Christ himself, and that is to “love your neighbor as yourself.”
- *Subsidiarity:* Pope St. John Paul II explained this principle: a community of a higher order should not interfere in the internal life of a community of a lower order, but should support it in the case of need and help to coordinate its activity with the activities of the rest of society, always with a view to the common good (*Centesimus Annus*).

From its beginning in 1998, CMF was founded on these four principles. Unfortunately, health care in the U.S. is continuing to move away from these principles. There was enormous confusion and lack of leadership regarding the collapse of Catholic values in health care. In conscience rights in health care, the violation of the other principles immediately followed. The larger Catholic community has been forced by state and federal laws and regulations, and in many cases employers, to participate in health programs that are contrary to our religious beliefs. Individuals and families are forced to participate in health plans that provide for abortion, contraception, and sterilization coverage. Many Catholic and other faith groups and

individuals had no place to turn to find a health insurance plan that was consistent with their faith beliefs.

Recognizing the seriousness of this crisis in health care, CMF began its ministry by exposing the violation of the dignity of the human person in health care plans. **Conscience Rights and the fight for religious liberty in health care became CMF's first priority and still is today.**

CMF developed a three-pillared approach to assure the active presence of Catholic social teaching:

1. CMF's continued efforts, along with the USCCB, Catholic Medical Association (CMA) and other faith-based organizations, have resulted more recently in the reintroduction of the [Conscience Protection Act of 2017](#) (S. 301) in the Trump Administration. S. 301 is identical to the Conscience Protection Act of 2016 (S. 304) that passed the House in July 2016 with a bipartisan vote of 245-182.
2. The launch and ongoing growth of CMF CURO, the Catholic health care sharing ministry was established with our Christian brothers and sisters at Samaritan Ministry International (SMI).
3. The beginning of a nationwide network of comprehensive Catholic health care centers established in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Colorado.

Today, there is before us still plenty of work in health care and health care reform for all of us at the Foundation, CMF CURO, and the entire Catholic community to restore Catholic social teaching. It is imperative that we pray daily and contact our congressional leaders to see that God's will be done in health care reform. We must encourage our pastors throughout the U.S. to support the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 to ensure that those providing much-needed health care can continue to do so without being forced by government to abort innocent unborn children.

Please help us continue our fight for religious freedom and our values espoused in Catholic social teaching. If possible, please make a donation today online at [www.ChristMedicus.org](http://www.ChristMedicus.org) or by mail. I know you will be as generous as you can. We depend on your prayers and the financial support of our benefactors to continue our fight for religious liberty and the restoration of Catholic Social Teaching in health care. CMF is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, so your donation is tax deductible.

As we know, “So goes health care so goes our culture.”

God bless you.

Your Friend for Life,

Michael J. O'Dea

CMF Founder and Executive Director



## Reflection on the Divine Mercy Devotion According to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

*By Michael Vacca*

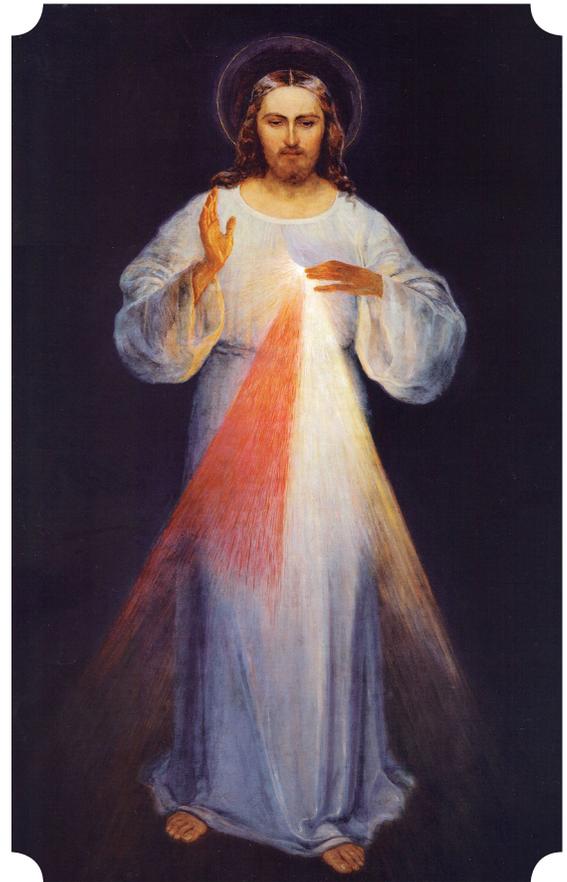
If there was ever a devotion in the Church that helps us live our Catholic faith to the fullest, it is the devotion to the Divine Mercy. Why is that? Ultimately, because our Lord Jesus Christ is Mercy Incarnate. So the very heart of our calling to become like Christ is to become like Mercy Incarnate. The central truth that God is Mercy is implied in the sacraments, illustrated by the Word of God, confirmed by the Magisterium, and proclaimed by the lives of the saints.

But why the need to go further and institute a feast day specially devoted to the Divine Mercy, to venerate an image of the Divine Mercy, recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and pray the Divine Mercy novena as well as the Litany of the Divine Mercy? The Church is telling us that souls are perishing in spite of God's evident mercy, and so we are being given one final hope: trusting in Jesus' saving power through our worship of Jesus as the Divine Mercy. The following are some insights that can help us live the Divine Mercy message.

- Worship of Jesus as the Divine Mercy requires us to be merciful as He is merciful. We can exercise mercy in 3 ways: by prayer, deed, and word, which can be referred to as the three degrees of mercy.
- Living the Divine Mercy here and now means that we are bringing heaven to earth, and already participating in the endless adoration of the Triune God that occurs eternally in heaven.
- Our miseries do not prevent us from enjoying an intimate relationship with the Lord, but even the slightest intentional sin obstructs our relationship with the Lord and prevents the intimacy the Lord desires.
- God's mercy is so unimaginable that all the sins that have ever been committed are overcome by the slightest bit of trust in the Divine Mercy. So no one should fear coming to Jesus, the Divine Mercy.
- The very existence of the Divine Mercy should make us reflect on the extent of grace God offers us and remind us that we will be accountable for the failure to profit from every grace. The Lord gives us himself through the seven sacraments and chiefly through the Eucharist; He gives us His Word to nourish and sustain us; He shepherds us through the leaders of

the Church; He give us His Holy Spirit to be our advocate and intercessor. If that was not enough, He invites us to adore His mercy through the Divine Mercy image and chaplet, the holy hour of mercy at 3 p.m. every day, and the Feast of Divine Mercy the first Sunday after Easter.

As a CMF CURO member, you are a living example and advocate of the Divine Mercy through your daily life, prayer, words, and deeds.



The original image of the Divine Mercy painted according to the apparitions of Jesus to St. Faustina.



## SEEK 2017

### CMF CURO Team members attend conference in San Antonio

By Emma Vinton



Members of the CMF CURO team escaped the frigid Michigan January for the sun of Texas to attend Focus' SEEK Conference.

Thousands of college students, employers, friends, and sponsors of [Focus](#) (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) gathered for the conference, which takes place every two years. This year, the conference took place in San Antonio.

The five-day conference included fellowship with Catholic college students nationwide, lectures by well-known Catholic speakers, teachers, and theologians, as well as daily masses, adoration, events, and worship.

Speakers included Fr. Mike Schmitz, Dr. Edward Sri, Dr. Scott Hahn, Sr. Bethany Madonna, and many others. Archbishop Allen Vigneron of our home Archdiocese of

Detroit celebrated one of the masses.

CMF CURO is a sponsor of Focus, an organization which seeks to share the gospel among college and university students, and trains them to evangelize their campuses and the world.

Our support of Focus is the largest sponsorships that CMF CURO supports each year, and our team members attended the conference as part of this sponsorship. We were able to engage with thousands of college students and other supporters about our work in rebuilding a culture of life and freedom in health care.

CMF CURO is blessed to be a sponsor of such important work in our Church and among young people. We hope that, as part of this work, we can all together continue spreading the Gospel and rebuilding the culture of life.

## Stay connected

Follow us on social media to hear about all our upcoming events, news, and resources, and to get updates about your membership!



## Member spotlight

*“For years, we had traditional health insurance provided as an employee option. When Obamacare came into being and forced employer-sponsored health insurance plans to provide for abortion services, contraception, and other options that went against my family’s moral convictions, I started to look for alternatives. I came across 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 homeschooled. When my eldest daughter turned 23, our plan ceased to cover her even though she was still a full-time college student. This was a big problem for us, as she was now required to have her own plan, which was unaffordable.*

*I heard an advertisement on Catholic radio for CMF CURO, which not only covers adult children who are still in full-time education or still living with their parents, but also holds the same core beliefs and teachings of our Roman Catholic Church... Although we have not had a need 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 percent less with CMF CURO than it was with our previous sharing program.”*

- Mark and Judy Hedge and family

## Wellness winners

Congrats to the 10 winners (three pictured right) of our first quarter’s Stress-Free Challenge!

- Caryn Bing
- Janet Decken
- Mary Agnes Edsall
- Robert Foss
- Linda Moeder
- Norma Pipkin
- Monica Woodson
- Mark Misco
- Mary Schuck
- Daria Sockey

Through their participation, winners earned entry into the raffle and won \$100 cash gift cards.

[Log-in](#) to your CURO dashboard to participate in all our challenges!

## Looking for entertainment?

# FORMED®

CMF CURO members have access to FORMED, the platform which provides Catholic audios, books, movies, and other forms of entertainment for the entire family.

Here are our CMF CURO Team’s favorites on FORMED that we recommend for you and your family. [Log-in](#) to your account to access FORMED to check out our picks and explore more!

### For Men

- “Be A Man! Becoming the Man God Created You to Be.” By Fr. Larry Richards. Available on audio book and e-book.

### For Women

- “Awakening.” A Crossroads in Time Book. By Claudia Cangilla McAdam. Available as e-book.

### For Kids

- “The Day the Sun Danced.” Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Fatima with this animated movie. Rated G.



## Prayer Intentions

As a community, we encourage you to pray the Memorare for the following intentions:

- the spiritual and physical needs of the members of the ministry, you, and those who serve you in the ministry;
- that the CMF CURO membership will continue to grow, inviting all Catholics to witness to their Faith in daily life;
- an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our American culture, particularly in health care legislation and reforms;
- the protection of the unborn;
- the protection of persecuted Christians, all religious minorities, and religious liberty;
- Pope Francis' intentions for the coming months: for young people, Christians in Africa, and National Leaders.

Please keep these CMF CURO Members in your prayers:

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Veronica Finnie and family | • Frank Quintana                |
| • Brigid Claire Garstin      | • Philip & Robin Roy and family |
| • Mary H.                    | • Virginia Waters and family    |
| • Kraston Kolby              | • John Zapytowski               |
| • The Luna Family            | • The Zauhar family.            |
| • Alexa Mogollon             |                                 |

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.



This newsletter is dedicated to our patroness, St. Therese of Lisieux, whose Little Way we seek to emulate in our mission and in our service.

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CHRIST MEDICUS FOUNDATION



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