

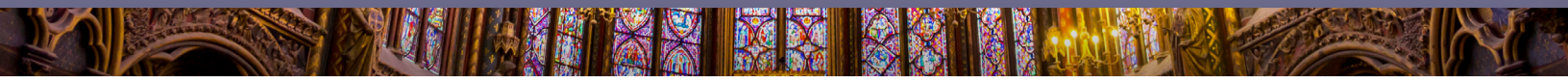


CHRIST MEDICUS FOUNDATION



— THE LITTLE WAY —

SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRIST MEDICUS FOUNDATION AND CMF CURO



A New Vision of Catholic Health Care

By Louis Brown

From meeting with the President of the United States about protecting life in health care to guiding Christ-centered Catholic medical clinics in their development and growth, from bringing together Catholic medical professionals and policy experts to work on protecting religious liberty to collaborating with the Catholic Medical Association on the challenges ahead in medicine, the Christ Medicus Foundation and CMF CURO are driving much of the future of Catholic health care in America. This is one of the benefits of your membership in CMF CURO: you are empowering the foundation of a new vision for Catholic health care in the United States that answers St. John Paul II's call for a New Evangelization.

Conceptually, this new vision of Catholic health care is a vision in which Catholic health care professionals and institutions heal and care for the sick in body, mind, and soul by placing Jesus Christ at the center of the Church's health care ministry.

It is a vision in which Catholic medical clinics, hospitals, and other medical affiliates follow the lead of the divine physician, Jesus Christ, who in the Gospels healed the soul, mind, and body of each person who asked for healing. It is a vision in which, as a partner of Christ Medicus Foundation once said, we as the Catholic Church ensure that each patient at a Catholic health care entity experiences the healing love of God physically and spiritually. As each patient receives physical healing through quality medical care, they also receive spiritual healing because they receive treatment in a loving, dignified fashion that powerfully reminds the patient that

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CMF CURO attended and was the main sponsor of the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast in early June in Washington D.C.



Vice President Mike Pence spoke at the Prayer Breakfast: "Remember to bow the head and bend the knee to pray in these challenging times." (CNS photo)

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they are a beloved son or daughter of God.

This new vision for Catholic health care that the Holy Spirit has imparted on CMF CURO and so many other Catholic health care professionals focuses on carrying out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, caring for the temporal needs of the body in this life, and caring for the eternal needs of each soul.

On a day to day basis, this vision, like the Gospels, is both old and new. It is a vision in which Catholics depend upon the Body of Christ to meet all their needs and to live lives of love, solidarity, and community in the health care decisions like the ancient early Christian communities in the book of Acts.

In the financing of health care, this vision sees a world in which Catholics choose new health care options such as health sharing and direct primary care that protect life and religious freedom, and empower the community to support each other in the vulnerability of their medical needs. Catholics must no longer go along with the broader health care culture that is often beholden to false values contrary to the truth of the dignity of every human person. Rather, in this new vision, Catholics make health care decisions as intentional disciples who have a Catholic worldview. Catholic individuals and families choose to support faithful Catholic health care providers and to pay only for health care options consistent with the Gospel of life.

In the delivery of health care, the new vision would provide patients who are materially impoverished with the same high-quality primary medical care from the same Catholic medical professionals and facilities that materially wealthy patients attend. Doctors would spend 30 to 45 minutes with each patient, not a mere seven minutes per visit, so that the doctor can really develop a relationship

with the patient and truly understand how to care for them as Christ would.

Like Bella Natural Women's Care in Colorado where both the materially wealthy and the impoverished are served with love and the highest quality care, Catholic medical centers should be built and interiorly designed with a focus on reflecting the truth, goodness, and beauty of God and of the patient who is a child of God. The interior design of the consultation rooms is focused on reflecting God's beauty and places the patient at ease. The medical doctors, physician's assistants, nurses, and other staff are trained in the culture of encounter and hospitality of the New Evangelization so that each patient who walks into the facility is treated with love, a concern for their particular need, and the experience that the staff is in solidarity with their suffering.

This new vision includes Catholic medical centers in which the Blessed Sacrament and mass are present on a weekly, if not daily basis. The sacramental life of the Church is part of the overall experience of Catholic health care centers. Finally, in this new vision, Catholic families together with Catholic medical professionals and facilities pray for and believe in God's supernatural power to heal the body, mind, and soul.

There is so much more to share about this new vision. The above thoughts are just a glimpse of the revolution in Catholic health care that the Christ Medicus Foundation and CMF CURO are helping to lead through the grace of God. We are honored that you are part of this effort and that we can serve you in your health care needs. We ask for your prayers as we work to carry out the charge that the Holy Spirit has given us to help bring about a New Evangelization in health care.



CMF founder Mike O'Dea speaking at the "Restoring Affordable Catholic Health Care" Conference in April in San Francisco.



CMF CURO director Louis Brown met with Human Life Action Center's Amy McInerney at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast.



The Christ Medicus Foundation and CMF CURO gained exposure as the main sponsor of the Prayer Breakfast.



Letter from the Founder

By Michael O'Dea

I am writing as I do every quarter to keep you updated on the progress of the Christ Medicus Foundation and CMF CURO.

Along with CMF CURO, our Catholic health care ministry, the Christ Medicus Foundation is actively engaged in leading collaborations with Catholic physicians, hospitals, and other providers to offer affordable alternatives to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). At the end of April, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, cardiologist Dr. Michel Accad, and I, in partnership with the Archdiocese of San Francisco Office of Human Life & Dignity, presented at the Respect Life Conference “Restoring Affordable Catholic Health Care.”

After opening the conference with prayer, Archbishop Cordileone applauded the timeliness of the meeting for our day. “The church, of course, from the very start has been a leader in providing health care, truly Christ-centered health care to care for the whole person,” he said. “We need to, in the changing circumstances of our day, continue to find new ways to deliver Christ-centered health care to those who are suffering.”

Dr. Accad described health care today as having lost its sense of the dignity of the human person as body and soul. He said that physicians are forced to practice medicine dictated not by what they need, but what and how much insurance companies are willing to pay.

“We are all paying for health care that is garbage,” Accad said. “Medical care today is increasingly mechanical.”

Because of the irrational pricing of government and private insurance plans, Accad decided to become a direct primary care doctor. This has enabled him to spend more time with his patients and rebuild the patient-physician relationship. Instead of paying a monthly insurance premium with a high deductible, he now is able to focus on quality and needed care. His patients pay a monthly fee for his services, and he refers them to other direct-pay specialists for ancillary services that he cannot provide.

“The direct primary care movement is an affordable arrangement that aims to repair the doctor-patient relationship,” Accad said.

In my presentation, I spoke on the mission of the Christ Medicus Foundation and the CMF CURO Catholic health care ministry, which provides Catholics and other Christians an economically and morally-favorable insurance alternative. I was able to show how health care sharing and direct primary care, working together, can

assure care that is faithful to the Ethical and Religious Directives of Catholic Health Care and the Magisterium, particularly regarding terminal illness or chronic disabling conditions, and insurance companies who may decide to stop covering those conditions.

It was a special day for me to attend this conference and experience the enthusiasm of the other presenters and attendees who want to be missionary disciples in building a Catholic health care culture of life.

On June 6, I, along with other members of our team, attended the 13th Annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast. It was an inspiring experience and a fruitful time for CMF and CMF CURO to gain exposure to more than a thousand Catholic leaders and share our need for their support in establishing new ways of providing Christ-centered health care.

The highlight of the morning was the eloquent and motivating speech by Vice President Mike Pence. He praised Catholic leaders and the whole Church for being a shining light on the hill in America and the world. He reviewed the significant accomplishments for life by the Administration – especially the states’ ability to defund Planned Parenthood, the stoppage of American dollars funding abortion internationally, and the executive order directing the HHS to reverse the mandate. As he did at the March for Life, the vice president assured us that life was winning and that the president is with us in protecting life, religious liberty, and right of conscience.

While there are many organizations now engaged in restoring freedom in health care, CMF provided the leadership back in 2002 to spearhead the formation of a broad coalition of leaders in Washington to become proactive in protecting our fundamental right to exercise our Catholic faith in public policy and the market place. Ever since, we have been on the forefront of protecting Catholic values in health care. This has led to the introduction of the Health Care Conscience Rights Act, and the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 in the current Congress. We will continue to lead in driving health care conscience protection legislation.

For us to continue to find new ways to deliver Christ-centered health care to those who are suffering, I ask you to join me in prayer, financial support, and membership with the Christ Medicus Foundation and CMF CURO, so that we can advance Catholic values in the public square and market place.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Mike O'Dea
Founder of the Christ Medicus Foundation



Exploring the R.I.S.E Program

By Michael Vacca

Our mission at CMF CURO is to provide you with a comprehensive Catholic health sharing experience. That means we are trying not only to provide for medical needs, but also for spiritual needs. In fact, we would go so far as to suggest that we cannot adequately provide for medical needs unless we do so within the context of a spiritual community that cares for and supports the whole person in their God-given mission. The body is connected to the soul, and as Catholics, while grateful for the wonderful advancements in medicine and technology, we must always remember that the Lord is our chief Physician, the Doctor of the whole person, body, mind, and soul. The health of our soul is directly connected to the health of our body, so we are making efforts to ensure that our members have an opportunity to seek the healing of the Lord in addition to whatever other medical treatment they may require.

Last February, we began the CMF CURO R.I.S.E spiritual enrichment program. R.I.S.E is an acronym that also signifies the glorious victory we have in Christ who rose from the dead for our sake. R.I.S.E stands for: Reflections, Intercessory Prayer, Spiritual Retreats & Healing, and Education & Enrichment. These components are designed to work together to foster an authentic spiritual community, the appropriate context where the spiritual and corporal works of mercy come together, where Catholic health care—health care as our Lord intended it—can thrive.

Reflections are designed to encourage the members to meditate on Scripture and other truths of our Catholic faith. Every Monday, CMF CURO releases a meditation focused on the daily readings. Using primarily the Gospel, but also incorporating, where appropriate, other daily readings, the Monday Meditations provide our members with an opportunity to strengthen their faith through contact with the Word of God. This type of mental prayer is essential to holiness.

Intercessory Prayer is designed to minister in a private and confidential way to members in need. Recognizing that each of us is comfortable with receiving prayer in different ways, we adjust the prayer to the preference of the member. Of chief importance, we beg the Lord from the bottom of our hearts to send his healing Holy Spirit and renew the person that is sick or injured. One person on our ministry team prayed for a person, a non-member, with advanced dementia and vision loss, received a prophetic word for

them from the Lord, and they were healed of advanced dementia and vision loss. This is the kind of healing that we expect as the Lord continues to bless our ministry. We also have a [prayer board](#) and a weekly Friday Fast where our families come together to pray for and support one another.

The Spiritual Retreats & Healing component was designed to provide both spiritual and physical healing as the Lord wills. Since R.I.S.E was launched last February, in just 4 months, we have had a Divine Mercy Retreat, a Lenten Stations of the Cross Retreat, and an Easter Fruits of the Holy Spirit Retreat. Prior to the launch of R.I.S.E, we had the Mercy in the Lives of the Saints retreat. We are currently investigating other ways to bring the healing touch of the Holy Spirit to our membership.

The Education & Enrichment component is designed to educate the Members about Catholic social teaching and provide a forum for a deeper, more profound appreciation of the truths of our Catholic faith. Be sure to look for forthcoming materials. Please also keep in mind that our members have access to FORMED, a wonderful Catholic treasury of hundreds of Catholic videos, books, audios, and programs.

Login to your CMF CURO account to and explore all the features of and start using our R.I.S.E program! If you have thoughts on how to improve the program or have other features you would like to see in the future, we would love to hear from you at info@christmedicus.org, or 1-800-840-7471. We look forward to continuing to serve you in your health care and spiritual needs!



A Rockies Mountain Hi

CMF CURO greets FOCUS missionaries in Denver

By Emma Vinton



Members of the CMF CURO team visited Denver in May for their sponsorship of the Focus Alumni Go Forth event, an event for the departing and transitioning staff of Focus (Fellowship of College and University Students).

The attendees of the conference were mostly young adults who have served as missionaries on college campuses, but are now moving on to other careers both in the church and in the secular world. As the main sponsor of the event, CMF CURO was able to educate young people on the importance of bringing their Catholic faith and missionary

spirit into health care. This was the perfect audience to educate on our similar mission of evangelization and rebuilding a culture of life in our country.

We were able to visit one of our partnered pro-life medical facilities, [Bella, Natural Women's Care & Family Wellness Center](#) in the Denver area, and were able to venerate the relics of St. Padre Pio at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

We are committed to spreading the word and mission of CMF CURO nationwide. Next stop... Hawaii?



From left: The CMF CURO sponsorship of the Focus Alumni Go Forth event; the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver; the relics of St. Padre Pio in the Cathedral in Denver.

Stay connected

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



A Sweet Summer

Stay healthy this summer with a colorful diet

Though we just finished our Eat the Rainbow Challenge, you can still keep up the healthy and colorful eating! Summer is the perfect time to enjoy all the vibrant fruits and veggies the warm months offer.

Here's some tips to eat all the colors this summer:

- Grow a garden – Having your own fruit or vegetable garden can help you to cultivate good habits and delicious produce! Try growing an array of colorful foods, like berries, carrots, eggplant, leafy greens, tomatoes, and squash.
- Visit the Farmer's Market – Summer means it's time for the Farmer's Market! Markets are the perfect place to find fresh fruits and veggies while supporting local farmers and growers.
- Experiment during the summer holidays – Try integrating a new fruit into dishes at your summer holiday gatherings. Experiment with new fruits in a fruit salad, or opt for freshly-squeezed drinks! Add slices of citrus like lemon, lime, and orange to your water, or try freezing them in ice cubes!

[Login](#) to your CMF CURO account to view more Healthy Recipes on the home page!

Wellness winners

Congrats to the ten raffle winners from the second quarter wellness program!

Through participation in different aspects of our wellness program – such as daily mini challenges, health courses, health assessments, and monthly challenges – our winners earned entry into our raffle and won \$100 cash gift cards!

- Jean Bachmann
- Ashley Crane
- Laurie Hoffman
- Jennifer Koran
- Mark Misco
- Norma Pipkin
- Elizabeth Riley
- Mary Schuck
- Rachel Tellez
- Joseph Walton

Member spotlight

Mike is self-employed and health insurance costs were increasing and the coverage was rather minimal. We were unhappy at the thought of contributing to morally-unacceptable procedures by paying our premiums.

We first heard about CMF CURO / Samaritan Ministries International from our friends Mike and Peggy O'Dea. As we learned more, we were convinced this ministry was perfect for our family.

We joined in June 2015, excited to support others with their medical needs and to be a part of such a positive, wholesome, and Christ-centered approach to health cost sharing.

Little did we know that one year later we would be on the receiving end of this wonderful ministry.

In June of 2016 Mike suffered a heart attack while working outside our home. By the grace of God, I had just returned home and was able to call 911.

Shocked and unnerved, I called Kate Allwein, our representative. She was so helpful and the entire process was seamless. The website is easy to navigate and the process to submit medical needs and acknowledge receipt of the financial gifts from members is well-organized and easy to complete. The whole experience has been a beautiful testimony for our family of God's great providence. It truly has been inspiring.

We have been amazed at the outpouring of Christian love, concern and heartfelt prayers, and are overwhelmed by the goodness of our gracious Lord and His faithful servants. We are humbly accepting financial support from strangers who we have come to believe are truly our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are exceedingly grateful and blessed be in the CMF CURO Family.

- Mike and Molly McCartney

Ohio

EAT THE RAINBOW
C H A L L E N G E

Prayer Intentions

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

- For the spiritual and physical needs of CMF CURO members and those who serve the ministry;
- That the CMF CURO membership will continue to grow, inviting all Catholics to witness to their faith in health care;
- For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our American culture, particularly in health care legislation and reforms;
- For the protection of the unborn;
- For those struggling with addictions;
- For Pope Francis' intentions for the coming months: National leaders, lapsed Christians, artists, and parishes.

Please keep these CMF CURO members in your prayers, and all the intentions of our prayer board:

- | | |
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| • Moises Barraza | • Alexa Mongollon |
| • Nina Lesa Brown | • Muhs family |
| • Steve Burroughs | • Frank Quintana |
| • Matthew Csukker | • Jake Reyher |
| • Barb Dolan | • Philip & Robin Roy and family |
| • Veronica Finnie and family | • Janie Toprakci |
| • Brigid Claire Garstin | • Mary and Frank Venuto |
| • Mary H. | • Elisha and Mark Villalva |
| • Katie, Jordan, and Baby Ella | • Virginia Waters and family |
| • Carmelyn and Tom Loveland | • John Zapytowski |
| • The Luna Family | • The Zauhar family |
| • Paul Matchen | |

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.

Login to your [CMF CURO account](#) to view our prayer board to post prayer intentions and pray for other members in need!



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.

CHRIST MEDICUS FOUNDATION



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