

Catholic Medical Association: 'Support for those who desire to provide excellent health care'

BY BECKY BERRETH

On September 16, the Diocese of Rapid City hosted an evening with Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., from the National Catholic Bioethics Center, Philadelphia, Pa., as a way to invite those in the medical field to help the diocese establish a local guild with the Catholic Medical Association. The night began with a White Mass honoring those in the healthcare profession, followed by presentations by Fr. Tad and regional CMA representatives. The diocese needs six medical professionals to join the national group before the diocese can petition for a local guild.

"Creating a Catholic Medical Association Guild in our diocese is important because it will provide great support for those who desire to provide excellent health care in accordance with the teachings of the church," said Bishop Robert Gruss. "Our

culture places many demands on physicians and those who work with them. At times these demands can be in conflict with our Catholic faith, putting Catholic healthcare practitioners in precarious situations."

Amy Julian, director of Family Life Ministries, agreed, noting that many of life's challenges impact the medical provider. "The more support we can offer them in their efforts to follow church teaching, and their efforts to know church teaching makes it easier for patients to understand church teaching when they are in an end of life situation for example. When people are facing those decisions they don't run to their priest or check church teachings to see what they suggest."

The CMA is the largest association of Catholic individuals in health care. According to their website, the group is a "physician-led community of healthcare professionals that informs, organizes, and

inspires its members, in steadfast fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine." The purpose of the guild is to provide fellowship, education, and opportunities to serve the local church, public, and others in their particular healthcare field.

Beth Erk, Newell, said she was considering joining the organization to stay informed about what challenges medical professionals face, and have resources to find answers to moral questions if when they arise.

"I would like to stay informed about issues that arise in regards to conscientious objection, abortion, and other ethical issues," Erk said. "I am seeing policies that are being written that do not support the right to conscientious objection and I would like to see the organization help us to be proactive in addressing those issues before we are faced with ethical decisions and do not have the right to conscientious objection."



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., from the National Catholic Bioethics Center, gives a presentation to a group of Catholic medical professionals at Terra Sancta. His talk focused on the early induction of labor demonstrating how to use the bioethical principle of "Double Effect" and the "Ethical and Religious Directives" (USCCB) to help make decisions in-line with the Catholic teachings. He also encouraged those in attendance to join the CMA saying, "One of the most important things for physicians is to feel connected and to know you are not alone in the issues you face." (WRC photo by Becky Berreth)

Vacancy

Chief Financial Officer

Diocese of Rapid City, SD

Position Summary

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible for the overall financial operations and strategy for the Diocese and for fostering the professional, honest, and prudent use of its temporal resources in carrying out the Diocesan mission. This position is directly accountable to the Bishop of Rapid City. A more detailed job description is available on the diocesan website at rapidcitydiocese.org.

Applicant Qualifications - Education and Experience:

This person must be a practicing Catholic. Experience in financial management, supervision of staff, and not-for-profit accounting required. The successful candidate must have excellent communication skills and the ability to collaborate with multiple organizations and boards. Undergraduate degree in business administration, finance and/or accounting required. CPA designation and/or Master's degree in business or finance desirable.

Applying

Application is available at rapidcitydiocese.org. Please send completed application and resume to Margaret Simonson, Chancellor, PO Box 678, Rapid City SD 57709 or email to msimonson@diorc.org.

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