
THE CATHOLIC CHIROPRACTOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CATHOLIC CHIROPRACTORS

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CALL FOR ACTION AND PRAYERS



SISTER YENGO:

A Touching Message & Inspiring Words...

For those who do not know Sister Brigitte Yengo, she is a Catholic Nun from the Order of the Sisters of Notre Dame of the Rosary, a Chiropractor, a Physician, and a member of AFCC... She consecrated her life to helping the "most challenged children of God" in the middle of the unstable and violent nation of Congo in Africa.

In May, many of our members and colleagues had the privilege to see Sister Yengo and listen to her story at several chiropractic events in North America. A special thank you to Drs. Steve and Claire Welsh, Catholic chiropractors affiliated with the ICA and the GA Council of Chiropractic who organized an event for Sister Yengo in Atlanta... It was such a blessing, as she delivered a **great message of healing, hope and determination, encouraging all of us to do God's will in our practice and in any circumstances of life.** She brought us great words of encouragements as we do have everything, all the talents we need, in our hands and heart to accomplish our vocation with God's graces and to support those who need our assistance and prayers.

Next time Sister comes to the US, we need to help organize her schedule so she can speak at chiropractic colleges as the chiropractic students need to hear her message of service for mankind. I would like for AFCC members to come with creative ideas to maximize the generous efforts. We need to better support this living mission: i.e. Catholic DC students to intern at the Mission, Doctor's Mission trip to Congo when country is more stable, etc. Please share your thoughts.



Sister Yengo needs help as **two African Sisters from the Mission will be entering the DC program soon and then return to serve at the Mission in Congo.** I believe Life Chiropractic College West's President, Dr. Clum has offered full scholarships for the nuns to enter the DC program. I would like for AFCC members to help the nuns with their daily expenses.

AFCC donated \$250 to Sister Yengo's humanitarian effort for the disabled children, the orphans and the dying sick people and encourages all its members to visit Sister Yengo's website and support Notre Dame Mission's work in the Congo, www.sisteryengoschildren.org

We need new ideas and ways to better organize campaigns to support this cause in our profession and in our offices with our patients. Please also remember the **late Father Felix Perel in your prayers**, he was a Missionary Priest and Chiropractor in Congo and was called by God on April 14th, 2009†.

*OFFERING A DECADE OF THE ROSARY OF THURSDAYS
FOR AFCC, CHIROPRACTIC AND OUR PATIENTS*

By Dr. Rick Riley



In the Blessed Mother's last message at Fatima, October 13, 1917, she appeared as the Queen of the Holy rosary. In one hand she held the rosary and in the other the scapular. Once she told St. Dominic that the rosary and the scapular would one day save the world. That day is today!

In the book, the "Power of the Rosary", Our Lady speaks to her Beloved Priests", she told Father Stephano Gobbi on October 7, 1983: Beloved sons, in the battle in which you are daily engaged against Satan and his crafty and dangerous seductions, and against the mighty armies of evil, apart from the special help given you by the angels of the Lord, it is necessary for you to employ a weapon which is both secure and invincible. This weapon is your prayer.....Prayer possesses a potent force and starts a chain reaction in good that is far more powerful than any atomic reaction. The prayer of my predilection is the holy rosary. For this reason in my apparitions I always ask that it be recited (#275).

Our Lady has said that when we pray the rosary, she prays with us. Now that's a powerful prayer my friend. I've heard some complains that the rosary is just too boring! Let me ask you; are you tired of hearing someone telling you over and over again how much they love you?

It will be the chain of the rosary that binds satan. Let us help Our Lady put the squeeze on evil by picking up those simple beads and praying from the heart. I encourage you to pray the Rosary daily and join in prayers by offering one decade of the Rosary every Thursday for AFCC, Chiropractic and our patients.

Excerpts from: The Power of the Rosary: Rev. Albert J.M. Shamon: CMJ Marian Publishers and Distributors.

A PROJECT: CHIROPRACTIC AT THE VATICAN



AFCC has been talking in the past about having a chiropractic clinic at the Vatican but we never really went beyond discussions among ourselves on this subject. Many of us have been adjusting Priests, Nuns, patients from religious congregations, and even gone to Monasteries to care for monks... Fr. Perel was a chiropractor and sister Yengo is practicing at the Mission in Brazaville...AFCC is a part of the FIAMC, the official Catholic Medical Organization...

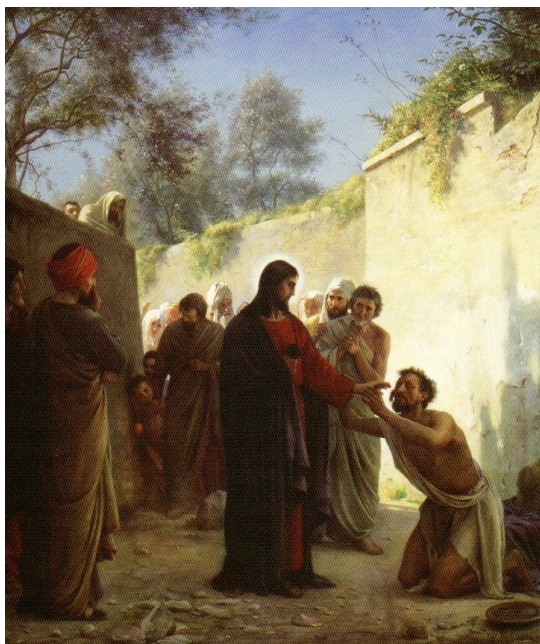
There is no doubt it is time for AFCC to initiate diplomatic discussions with the Vatican about chiropractic. Our distinguished members, Dr. Michael Smatt and Dr. Fabrizio Mancini who have good contacts with Vatican

Officials will start on this AFCC project this summer.

We would like for chiropractic to be officially recognized and its practice legalized by the Vatican and work in collaboration with the Italian Chiropractic Association to offer care to 15,000 employees and family members at the Vatican until a clinic can be established in the future. May God hear our prayers!

TWO KINDS OF HEALING

By Dr. Serge Sautré



In reviewing an interesting article from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine called "Guidelines for Evaluating Reiki as an Alternative Therapy", we thought about chiropractic and better understanding healing as it applies to our profession and our daily practices. So we encourage you to read this article on the internet at

http://www.usccb.org/dpp/Evaluation_Guidelines_finaltext_2009-03.pdf

In summary, the document states: that the Church recognizes two kinds of healing and these two kinds of healing are not mutually exclusive:

-Healing by divine grace

-Healing that utilizes the power of nature

Healing by divine grace:

Yes, God can heal anyone at anytime... The document mentions that: "Because it is possible to be healed by divine power does not mean that we should not use natural means at our disposal. It is not our decision whether or not God will heal someone by supernatural means."

As Catholic chiropractors, we are encouraged by our Faith and particularly by Christ message of healing to pray for our patients' health, encourage them to pray and be close to God and for us to be charitable through touching people with our poor healing hands and God's words, which should be inspired by the Holy Spirit. No small talk! It's difficult as we need to stay close to God through prayers and the sacraments so we can listen to His help and communicate his healing message through our words and/or example to others.

In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus heals on many occasions the sickness and the sick person by His loving touch and divine words full of infinite healing power and wisdom, the chapter VIII & IX of Saint Matthew present many testimonials of Christ curing "incurable" infirmities and sinners.

In one of her public presentation, our friend and colleague Sister Brigitte Yengo referred us to mediate upon Jesus healing as described in Saint Marc chapter V, focusing on the "healing" force that left Jesus when a lady who has been sick losing blood for more than 12 years, going from doctor to doctor, spending all her money without results ... She received instant cure of her condition by touching Jesus' garment: Now there was a woman who had suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years;²⁶ after long and painful treatment under various doctors, she had

spent all she had without being any the better for it; in fact, she was getting worse.²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and she came up through the crowd and touched his cloak from behind, thinking,²⁸ 'If I can just touch his clothes, I shall be saved.'

²⁹ And at once the source of the bleeding dried up, and she felt in herself that she was cured of her complaint. ³⁰ And at once aware of the power that had gone out from him, Jesus turned round in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹ His disciples said to him, 'You see how the crowd is pressing round you; how can you ask, "Who touched me?" ' ³² But he continued to look all round to see who had done it.

³³ Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at his feet and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ 'My daughter,' he said, 'your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free of your complaint.'

Healing through natural power

Natural power includes the “innate” recuperative power of the body to heal itself which is an entire part of God’s creation of Life. As chiropractors we use the physical means of the adjustment to improve the alignment of the spine and articulations and facilitate the natural healing process of the body through the nervous system.

Our primary intent is to give the best care we can “regardless” of the patient condition using our knowledge and experience to evaluate and facilitate biomechanical and neuro-biological function and integrity by focusing particular attention on the subluxation (see ACC position paper #1).

We may use other conservative patient care procedures, and, when appropriate, collaborate with other health care providers. So we encourage you to participate in your local Catholic Medical Association guild and meet physicians to work within your community.

<http://www.cathmed.org/>

And once again, we need to stay close to our Lord through prayers and the sacraments so the Holy Spirit can guide us in the application of chiropractic science and in perfecting our art of practicing our vocation in order to help our patients fulfill theirs.



CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Upholding the Principles of the Catholic Faith in the Science and Practice of Medicine

Press Release - STATEMENT ON HEALTH-CARE REFORM

Philadelphia, PA – July 29, 2009 – The Catholic Medical Association (CMA) called upon President Obama and Congress to “hit the reset button” in their attempts to address the serious problems in the nation’s health-care financing and delivery systems. The CMA is concerned that the bills that have emerged from House and Senate Committees to date are too flawed, and the process too rushed, to provide meaningful reform.

“While health-care reform is more important than ever, existing legislation in the House and Senate—combined with President Obama’s push for hasty action—could make our current, flawed system even worse,” said Catholic Medical Association representative R. Steven White, M.D., in a statement released on July 29, 2009. “Sound reform must be based on sound ethics and economics; but so far, the House and Senate bills meet neither standard.”

The CMA is particularly concerned about two significant ethical issues (1) respect for the conscience rights of health-care providers; and (2) a mandate to finance and provide abortion.

According to the CMA's executive director, John F. Brehany, Ph.D., the conscience rights of health-care providers are not adequately addressed in any current legislation. "The House Tri-Committee bill does not even mention the topic of conscience rights of health-care providers, and Democrats on the Senate H.E.L.P. Committee voted against an amendment that would have prohibited forcing health-care providers to perform or participate in abortion," stated Brehany. Brehany continued, "This issue is very timely, since the department of Health and Human Services canceled a Conscience Protection Rule earlier this year and has not announced what will replace it. Yet polls show that patients want physicians who are committed to ethics and who share their values. Coercing health-care providers to deny their deepest values and ethical commitment to patients' well-being will harm the medical profession and undermine trust in the provider-patient relationship." Brehany concluded, "In a July 2 interview, President Obama promised a 'robust conscience clause.' We think it is time to deliver the text of that conscience clause and make conscience protection an integral part of any health-care reform legislation."

Abortion is another key ethical concern for the CMA and for most Americans. CMA President Louis C. Breschi, M.D., is alarmed that White House officials and the Senate H.E.L.P. Committee have refused to exclude abortion from health-care legislation. The House Tri-Committee bill never mentions the word "abortion, but most analysts think that, without explicit exclusion, abortion will be mandated by the Secretary of HHS and/or by the courts. According to Breschi, "Few people realize that, as things stand, abortion could be a required benefit in all health insurance plans, and it would be subsidized not only in health-care premiums, but also through taxation. This unjust mandate must be excluded."

Apart from ethical concerns, the CMA finds significant shortcomings in the economic and clinical aspects of current legislation. First, as the Congressional Budget Office points out, the legislation does nothing to reduce long-term costs. Rather, current legislation increases costs by hundreds of billions of dollars even after tax increases and creative accounting measures. Second, the bills' attempts to control costs and increase access rely on heavy-handed government control that is antithetical to the rights of patients and physicians, and to good clinical care. Dr. White commented: "Unprecedented powers are entrusted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as evidenced by over 1,120 references to the 'Secretary' and his/her powers in the House bill) and to a new authority—the 'Health Choices Commissioner.' Moreover, a Federal Coordinating Council on Comparative Effectiveness was created and funded, without adequate debate, by the Stimulus Bill; and there are valid concerns that the FCCCE could soon start regulating medical treatments based not only on clinical, but also 'economic' criteria."

This heavy-handed federal control is made worse by two additional provisions. First, House bill regulations make it almost impossible for any current health insurance plan to survive in a new government-controlled regime. This would break President Obama's repeated promise that Americans could keep their doctors and health-care plans—and remove the means for people to choose insurance which accords with their values and priorities. Second, House and Senate bills plan to extend health insurance coverage to millions of people by moving them onto the Medicaid rolls. However, the flaws of Medicaid are well-known—its costs have run out of control in most states, and 40% of physicians are compelled to refuse Medicaid patients because Medicaid's low reimbursement rates do not even cover the overhead cost of office visits. Adding millions of people to this flawed system will not constitute meaningful health insurance coverage.

These problems would be exacerbated by a "public option" plan which would "compete" with private health insurance, as called for in the House Tri-Committee bill. But there is no way that private companies can fairly compete with the federal government. The government can establish below-market rates for insurance premiums and provider reimbursement and shift costs onto private companies. The government also can increase taxes or the federal deficit to absorb losses. The result is that everyone, sooner than later, will be forced to become participants in the "public option" plan and fully subject to the costs and regulations of government health care. When this happens, the American people will have lost the freedom to make important decisions about their life and health.

The Catholic Medical Association supports health-care reform that increases access and quality, and respects the values of providers and patients. These goals can best be achieved by legislation that empowers people to own their health insurance policies (as contrasted with government- or employer-controlled health-care insurance), and using targeted measures to help people who cannot afford the entire cost of their insurance premium. Legislation addressing some of these goals already has been introduced into Congress and should be reviewed to either improve or replace the current House and Senate bills.

In the meantime, current bills require such substantial amendment that it would be better to scrap them and start again. According to Dr. Breschi, it is critical for Congress to take the time necessary to address the complex economic and ethical issues involved, and to give the American people an opportunity to review any proposed legislation. Health-care reform encompasses both individual rights and the common good, ethical issues surrounding life and death, and economic issues ranging from taxes and property to economic competitiveness. It is essential that Congress first “do not harm” and then enact measures that can respect all of these complex goods.

About the Catholic Medical Association: Founded in 1932, the Catholic Medical Association is the largest association of Catholic physicians in North America. The mission of the CMA is to assist physicians in upholding the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine and in witnessing to these principles within the medical profession, the Church and society at large. The CMA also publishes The Linacre Quarterly, the oldest continuously published journal of medical ethics in the United States. For more information, go to www.cathmed.org.

CONTACT: John F. Brehany, Ph.D., S.T.L., Executive Director, 215-877-9099 , info@cathmed.org

MASS OFFERINGS

AFCC has requested:

- a Mass for the Intention of Father Felix Perel †,**
- a Mass for the intention of Dr. Karen Shields’ father, Mr. Peter M. Shields †**
- a Mass for the intention of its members.**

If you have Mass Offering Requests, please contact me @ afchiro@bellsouth.net and send a stipend to AFCC.

ORGANIZING AFCC A CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We are thankful for your prayers and proud of everything accomplished. It is time for all of us to take part and responsibility for the future of the organization.

PRAYERS AND ACTIONS:

- 1. Send your AFCC application dues and/or tax-deductible donations for 2009.**
- 2. Make 12 copies of AFCC applications and newsletters and share it with other Catholic Chiropractors at alumni meetings and state conventions**
- 3. Volunteer on the board or as a member. Just contact the president at drserge@bellsouth.net or call 404-895-0015**