CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

February 2024 Newsletter

President's Column

"A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the new year begins to unfold, I have been reflecting on the events of the past year as we develop our plans for the Alliance in 2024. This is a necessary exercise and done diligently, provides a modicum of order to our lives and work. However, unless we heed the wisdom of Proverbs 16:9 the unexpected events that will inevitably arise can lead to frustration and discouragement. But when we allow the "Lord to direct our steps" at all times and in every circumstance, acknowledging His sovereignty in our lives, we can live in harmony with His will and accomplish more than we had ever envisioned with much less anxiety.

This is now more important than ever because the challenges we are confronted with in healthcare today are greater than any I have seen during my forty-five-year career in medicine. Despite recent victories in the courts and legislatures in defense of life and religious liberty, the forces arrayed against the Judeo-Christian foundation of America are stronger and more emboldened than ever before.

Consider the fact that since Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022, arguably the greatest pro-life victory in fifty years, every state initiative enshrining access to abortion has prevailed with more planned for this year.

Consider the fact that the Biden administration's Department of Health and Human Services has recently published a final rule that undermines the enforcement of rights of conscience in healthcare. This new HHS conscience rule disregards the full force of federal medical conscience laws. Despite federal law to the contrary, the new HHS conscience rule implies that religious freedom and medical conscience rights are on parr with the right to provide access to inherently unethical and harmful procedures such as abortion.

Consider the fact that many major medical professional organizations in the United States support gender transition procedures in minors. The law in California even allows a child transported from another state to obtain gender reassignment without the consent of the child's parents and empowers California judges to remove custody from the child's parents.

These three examples alone, by no means a comprehensive list, demonstrate the grave threat to life, freedom of conscience and parental rights in health care confronting us today.

Amid moral mayhem and cultural chaos, St. Paul's words to the Romans give us cause for hope for "where evil increases, grace abounds all the more." (Romans 5:20) Reliance on this grace in formulating our plans while allowing God to direct our actions sustains our efforts and gives us confidence to persevere.

Throughout this year, the CHCLA will continue to promote awareness of these and other important issues by highlighting the work of our members in this newsletter and through other educational initiatives. We will advocate for local and national healthcare reforms upholding human dignity and social justice through our Public Policy Institute launched last November.

Watch the launch of the Institute for Public Policy and Advocacy

In the fall, we will launch the Center for the Support of Catholic Health Care Ministry to develop a nationwide network of medical professionals, clinics and health systems. This will create opportunities for collaboration, sharing intellectual and material resources to ensure the flourishing of existing centers of care and the development of the future of health care with new models of delivery that will enable us to continue our Catholic tradition of providing for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all those we are called to serve.

With your support, we will remain united and steadfast in the cause for life and religious freedom with patience, perseverance and confidence in Divine

Providence, for “the Lord defeats the plans of peoples and His designs stand forever, the plans of His heart from age to age.” (Psalm 33)

God bless,
Steven White, M.D.
President, CHCLA