CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

August 2025 Newsletter

President's Column

"Be doers of the Word." (James 1:22)

Dear Friends in Christ,

I recently returned from the Napa Institute's Summer Conference, where this year's theme was "Doers of the Word: Faith, Hope and Charity in the Work of Personal Conversion and Renewal of the World." Over 650 leaders of Catholic apostolates, both lay and religious, gathered for three days of spiritual enrichment, faith formation, intellectual enlightenment and fellowship.

I attended with several members of our Board of Directors and Episcopal Advisory Board. Throughout the event, we were reminded that "to be doers of the word means to be conformed to God in such a way that He dwells fully within us, and we in Him. That every thought, word, and deed of ours reflects to the world the vibrant life of the most Holy Trinity."

It was an immersion in the "new springtime" spoken of by Pope St. John Paul II, during the beautiful liturgies, outstanding educational sessions and genuine camaraderie with those committed to building a culture of life and a civilization of love.

CHCLA presented a breakout presentation entitled, "The Crisis in Health Care: A Call to Action for the Catholic Community." We addressed both the ethical and economic crises in health care, both of which have undermined

the very foundation of the medical profession: the patient-physician relationship and the Oath sworn by medical professionals for two millennia: To Do No Harm.

And while this audience was aware of the profound ethical crisis due to a deep and disturbing infiltration of the culture of death into secular medical practice, many were unaware of the equally serious threat posed by an economic crisis resulting from a shift in control of health care financing and administration to large secular institutions including the government, the insurance industry and other corporate entities such as private equity firms.

These third parties now control the "purse strings" of trillions of dollars spent on medical care annually, dictating what care you can receive, where you can receive it, and from whom. These decisions are made by distant government bureaucracies and in corporate board rooms with little understanding or interest in the impact on patients, medical professionals, or the essential interpersonal relationship they share, described beautifully by Pope St John Paul II, as one between a person who is ill and suffering in need of care, and another who in good conscience cares for him with empathy and love.

The take-home message was that unless we regain control of the financing and administration of our health care, we risk being subject to the dictates of a monolithic medical industrial complex that will prioritize financial interests above patients' interests, management's interests above physicians' interests, while imposing its secular ethic upon us all.

The presentation was also a preview of our annual Symposium to be held at the Catholic University of America's Busch School of Business. Our theme will be "The Business of Catholic Health Care: Effectively Administering Christ's Healing Ministry." Presentations by experts in the business, politics and practice of medicine will examine root causes of the current crisis and present solutions grounded in Catholic social teaching. The insights gained will inspire a renewed commitment to ensuring the vitality and integrity of our Catholic medical ministry in today's complex landscape.

Thank you for continuing to support our mission through prayer and financial gifts. I hope you will consider joining us either in person or virtually for the Symposium in November. Together we can lead the renewal of health care in America for the glory of God and the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare of all those we are called to serve in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

Steven White, M.D.
President, CHCLA