

St. Luke's Guild

Who Are We?

The St. Luke's Guild is an organization of Catholic physicians in the Diocese of Albany, New York. Our Constitution and our By-laws are on file with the Diocese and we have received permission to identify ourselves as a Catholic Organization. The focus of our efforts is on assisting physicians, their families, and the people of this area to recognize the special calling of the baptized to serve and to minister to all. Membership is open to Catholic physicians and to those who subscribe to the traditions and values of the Catholic faith.

What Is Our Purpose?

St. Luke's Guild endeavors to be a supportive organization of Catholic physicians helping its members and, by extension, associated physicians and other health care providers to learn and appreciate the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and to better serve their patients. We focus on three goals, developing the spirituality of physicians within the Catholic tradition, the education of physicians on the moral teachings of the Church and service to the people of God. To accomplish these goals, the Guild serves as a means for gathering and disseminating information, research, and educational materials to the medical community and patients; a source and facilitator of informed discussion and learning for the general public; a generator of funds and appropriate resources for a continuing forum and fount of Catholic moral teaching.

What Have We Accomplished?

The Guild sponsors the annual Mass for Physicians on the feast of St. Luke at which the renewal of ministry and anointing of hands symbolize the healing/caring ministry of the physician, and the family is encouraged and recognized as a source of strength and encouragement. The Guild continually seeks out ways and means to meet the needs/questions of members by organizing educational programs.

The St. Luke's Guild strives to be meeting the needs of the community. For the Schenectady Free Health Clinic, which is manned by volunteer physicians and serves only the uninsured, the Saint Luke's Guild collected used cell phones and sold them to a recycler for a total of \$1500. The money was donated to the Schenectady Free Health Clinic. Medical supply were

collected used on various projects including, by a team of surgeons who traveled to the Dominican Republic to care for the poor. Saint Luke's Guild maintains a volunteer bulletin board at St. Clare's Hospital which contains many opportunities for healthcare workers to volunteer their services both in the U.S. and abroad. The Catholic Medical Mission board is one of a number of opportunities. Hundreds of used eyeglasses were collected by the St. Luke's Guild and shipped to foreign missions. St. Luke's Guild made a donation to St. Coleman's for the purchase of Christmas presents.

How Is the Guild Supported?

The operating budget is totally supported by the dues of the membership. The dues are set by the Board of Governors and are currently \$25.00 a year. The Msgr. O'Malley fund is supervised as a separate entity and the entire earnings are directed to the assistance of medical missionary activity. A member of the board of Governors oversees the fund.

Where Is The Guild Located?

The Guild has offices at the Chancery Offices, Pastoral Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203. The telephone number is (518) 453-6612, Fax (518) 453-6795.

Contact: Deacon Frank Thomas, M.D.

Email address is StLukes.Guild@rcda.org

Useful web sites for issues on medicine and moral teaching

1) The US Conference of Catholic Bishops maintains a web site that includes information on medical issues. Click on the heading, "Life Issues" on the left side of the home pages. <http://www.usccb.org/>

2) The NYS Catholic Conference's web site maintains a web page on healthcare issues:

http://www.nyscatholic.org/pages/our_agenda/show_issues.asp?issue=Healthcare

And on respect for life:

http://www.nyscatholic.org/pages/our_agenda/show_issues.asp?issue=Family%20Life/Respect%20Life

3) The Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute contains useful information and links to other sites.

http://www.ccbi-utoronto.ca/about_us.html

4) National Catholic Bioethics Center

<http://www.ncbcenter.org/ourhistory.asp>

Helpful sites for spirituality:

1) Father John Catoir's Messenger of Joy

<http://www.messengerofjoy.com/index.html>

2) Creighton University's web site includes a daily reflection at:

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

3) The Irish Jesuits offer a daily reflection at:

<http://www.sacredspace.ie/index.php?lang=en#advice>

DIOCESAN ANNUAL 'WHITE MASS' sponsored by St. Luke's Guild will be held in the Fall 2009. More information will follow when plans are finalized.