

November 5, 2014

Dear CMF Supporters:

On October 2, the Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) launched CURO, a Catholic health care ministry dedicated to the promotion of Christ-centered health care and the Gospel of Life! I am eager to tell you how you can be part of this exciting ministry. First, I want to retrace the path leading to this landmark.

It's Been a Long Journey

It all began in 1987 when I was counseling a pregnant teenager who was scheduled to have an abortion. I asked the teenager's mother if her daughter was going to have an abortion because they lacked finances or needed health insurance to have the baby. **The mother responded, "Whether my daughter has the baby or aborts it, my Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance will pay for it." I realized this was MY insurance plan.** My wife, Peggy, and I were trying to do everything possible to keep women from having abortions. But our insurance premiums would be helping to pay for this mother's abortion if she chose to have one. We were determined to no longer participate in a health plan that provided coverage for the killing of God's innocent children.

I began searching for an alternative that did not support the "culture of death." Early on, I uncovered a health plan under development for the National Organization of Women (NOW) that covered elective abortions, surgical and non-surgical birth control for individuals and couples regardless of marital status or sex. My outrage quickly turned to fear. NOW was setting the stage for what would become routine coverage in virtually all health plans.

Freedom Threatened by State and Federal Laws

In 1995, I met His Excellency Robert Vasa, now Bishop of the Diocese of Santa Rosa; David Wilson, a successful health care entrepreneur and CEO of Wilson Partners; Robert Mylod, a very prominent CEO retiring from Michigan National Bank; and Tracy Williams, owner and CEO of Verus Health, a third party administrator of employer health plans. We began to work with several Bishops, business and health care professionals to provide a Christ-centered health care alternative. As we were making headway creating tax fairness in health plans and gaining momentum in establishing a conscientious choice in the selection of health plans, the threat to the family continued to expand in all health plans.

In 1997 the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) was launched. Although S-CHIP provided help for many uninsured children, chemical abortion, contraception and sterilization were included. We recognized it was time for families and religious leaders to get involved in the debate. At the same time the Federal Employee Health Benefit and state contraceptive mandates began requiring all private insurance plans to cover sterilizations, birth control pills, IUDs, Depovera, and the Morning after Pill - without parental involvement. Many plans even included in vitro-fertilization and RU 486, an abortion inducing drug.

Formation of the Christ Medicus Foundation

I was shocked to learn that no one was proactively countering this attack on faith, family, and freedom in health care. In June of 1999, the Christ Medicus Foundation (now known as Christ Medicus Foundation) was formed to reclaim Christ-centered health care by engaging in education, public policy, and the market place.

CMF has been instrumental in exposing the threat to the family in many ways. But we are best known for providing leadership in:

1. The formation of a Right of Conscience Working Group, along with the leadership and support of Richard Doerflinger from the USCCB, that resulted in the current **Healthcare Conscience Rights Act HR 940**, introduced by Congresswoman Dianne Black and Congressman Jeffrey Fortenberry and **SB 1204**, introduced by Senator Tom Coburn.
2. Exposing the threat to the family of the mandated confidential coverage of abortion, contraception, and sterilization in all health plans, including coverage for children at any age in state regulations and in S-CHIP.
3. **Exposing the Institute of Medicine's alliance with Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** in forcing the **HHS Mandated** coverage of abortion, contraception, and sterilization for everyone — including children of all ages — in the Affordable Care Act, without any parental involvement.
4. **Launch of CMF CURO.** As a Catholic member-representative of Samaritan Ministries International, we now offer an exciting Christ-centered response to these concerns undermining the culture of life.

CMF CURO is Launched

Thanks to the grace of God, many prayers and sacrifices, and persistent and committed leadership, there is a Catholic alternative to health insurance. Visit www.cmfcuro.com to find out how you can protect your family with a health care program that respects Catholic moral teaching and promotes Pope St. John Paul II's Gospel of Life. **Here you will also find links to articles in National Review, National Catholic Register, Washington Post and others on the first Catholic health-care sharing ministry.**

The War is Not Over

All together, we must build a new culture of life in health care and caring

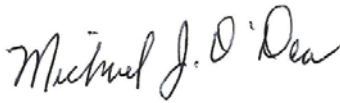
CHRIST MEDICUS

It has been a long journey requiring great faith to reach the goal that began back in 1987. Your prayers, personal involvement and financial support have enabled us to provide the leadership that is so desperately needed to protect religious liberty and conscience rights in health care. But the war against the family still rages on. It is critical to rebuild momentum for conscience rights in the 2015 congressional session.

We urgently need your participation in CMF CURO and financial support to keep fighting for religious liberty and conscience rights. Please ask your families and friends to do the same.

If everyone receiving this letter donates \$100 we will reach our 2014 goals. If you can please donate \$1000 or as much as you can afford. Your contribution will make up for those that cannot afford to help at this time. Please send your check payable to Christ Medicus Foundation in the enclosed envelope. Or visit www.christmedicus.org to donate online. **We need your help more than ever. Please be as generous as possible so we can to continue our commitment to see that all Americans have the freedom to participate in health care that is consistent with Catholic moral teaching and Biblical principles.**

Respectfully, yours In Christ,



Michael J. O'Dea
Founder and Executive Director
Christ Medicus Foundation