

## **Dr. Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana recognized with national award**

The Dr. Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana was recently recognized by the Catholic Medical Association and received the fifth annual “Outstanding Guild Award for Exemplary Efforts in Prayer, Education and Public Awareness.” Dr. Kate Heimann, guild vice president, accepted the award at the Catholic Medical Association’s gathering in Orlando, Florida, Sept. 25-27.

With the increasing attacks on religious liberty and congressional passage of the Affordable Care Act, new guilds have been springing up rapidly around the country with about 10-15 new guilds approved per year during the last several years. The northeast Indiana guild was approved less than two years ago in December 2012.

The Catholic Medical Association Award Committee recognized Dr. Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana for a multitude of activities where they have sought to inform both medical professionals and the lay community regarding medical issues they face.

Some of the activities garnering the recognition include “The Catholic Doctor is In” column that has appeared monthly in Today’s Catholic since April 2013. The column has been written by a number of guild members to educate members of the diocese. “Faith and Medicine” minutes have begun playing on Redeemer Radio courtesy of Dr. David Kaminskas.

In July 2013 during the Fortnight for Freedom, guild members spoke during a rally on the steps of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The guild has sponsored visiting speakers during the October White Mass banquets who have also spoken to University of Saint Francis ethics classes, Bishop Dwenger High School classes, Fort Wayne Medical Education Program Family Practice Residency, Theology on Tap, the IPFW Newman Group and other groups.

The guild has sponsored several Holy Hours led by their chaplain, Father James Bromwich, a priest of the Sons of St. Philip Neri.

The first physician retreat in March attracted 20 doctors. Another retreat is scheduled Saturday, March 7, 2015, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church spiritual center in Fort Wayne. The topic, “The Beauty of Medicine,” will offer an emphasis on prayer in the life of the physician.

The guild holds monthly spiritual formation meetings at the Cathedral Center on each third Saturday morning after the 8 a.m. Mass where they study and discuss St. John Paul II's document "On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering." This course was written by Dr. Thomas McGovern and has an imprimatur from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The guild hosted an evening dinner with members of the board and Congressman Marlin Stutzman to discuss relevant medical issues for northeast Indiana. In the works are increased efforts for collaboration between physicians and priests of the diocese and increased presence during the local March for Life and Banquet for Life.

This was the first year the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Guild was eligible to apply for the award. "For such a young guild to win the award goes to show the commitment of our local members," reported Dr. Thomas McGovern, guild president. "We have many more ideas for how to impact the medical and lay community in northeast Indiana; all we need are more members willing to give of themselves for the culture of life."

PROVIDED BY THE DR. JEROME LEJEUNE GUILD OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

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