



# Catholic Social Workers National Association

January 2009

## *Letter from the President:*

Catholic Social Worker's National Association (CSWNA) looks forward to this New Year. This past year, CSWNA held its first annual conference; continued growth in membership; redesigned the website; increased Board members and relocated from Indianapolis to the Cincinnati area. The association achieved most of its goals for 2008. Educational opportunity for members is an area that needs increased in this upcoming year. I would like to ask each one of you to consider ways in which you can assist the association: whether it be serving as the Educational Director, teaching a webinar/seminar or assisting with the quarterly newsletter. I ask you to please consider giving time this coming year to your association.

The annual conference is scheduled for July 27-29, 2009 in Louisville, KY. The keynote speaker on Monday evening will be William Donohue, Ph.D., President/CEO of the Catholic League. Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz D.D. from the Archdiocese of Louisville and Episcopal Liaison to CSWNA will be our honored guest and speaker on Tuesday evening. A list of presenters will be announced in the coming weeks. We have tried to keep the cost low so each one of you is able to attend. More information on the conference will be forthcoming.

CSWNA was formed as a 501(c)(6) organization, which allows for lobbying and advocating for issues that affect Catholic Social Workers. The association is in the process of forming a 501(c)(3) wing. The Catholic Social Worker's National Association Foundation will seek grants to assist with the growth of the association. If you have grant writing experience and would like to volunteer time, please contact me.

It is more important now more than ever that we stand together as one faith to live out our baptismal call by being the hands and feet of Christ. The challenges that we are faced with, both economically and morally call us to action.

I pray for each one of you to receive the gifts of health of mind, body and spirit. I pray that we as an association can come together to advocate for the marginalized members of society. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at [cswna@catholic.org](mailto:cswna@catholic.org) or 317-416-8285.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us.

*Kathleen Neher*

Kathleen Neher, MSW, LSW

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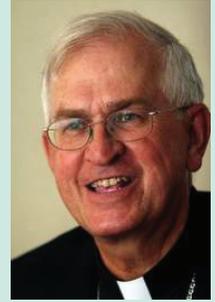
William A. Donohue, PhD  
Catholic League

Mark Ginter, PhD  
Saint Meinrad School of Theology

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Arizona State University

## *Kurtz leads push to define marriage* *Church sees union of 1 man, 1 woman*

By Peter Smith, October 22, 2008



**E**ven as the number of states allowing same-sex marriage has grown to three, Louisville **Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz** has begun leading a new Catholic effort to encourage laws that define marriage as between one man and one woman.

Kurtz is leading an ad hoc task force appointed recently by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which also will work with the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternity. Kurtz said the group has only had one teleconference so far and hasn't developed all of its plans, but early goals include distributing a video and Internet materials on the Catholic teaching on marriage. Those include a 2003 statement by Catholic bishops that followed Massachusetts' court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, the first in the nation.

"We are really trying to be persuasive as possible about what we have strong convictions about," Kurtz said. He said the church is "very clear on supporting the dignity of every human being," but doesn't agree with arguments that marriage is a civic right due to any two people regardless of gender. He said the church "continues to believe the traditional definition of marriage" as supporting "the intimate union of a man and woman (as the building block of a family."

He said the goal is not to promote a "particular church belief, like the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, but rather as a conviction about the common good and what is the common good in society." Kurtz already leads a subcommittee seeking ways to promote and strengthen existing marriages, which he said is part of the bishops' wider marriage agenda.

Kurtz said he doesn't anticipate doing a lot of traveling on behalf of the new initiative, but hopes it will provide resources for bishops and other Catholic representatives in states where the issue is being debated. Plans for the new ad hoc task force began in June after California's top court joined Massachusetts in legalizing same-sex marriage. Connecticut's top court issued a similar ruling earlier this month.

Twenty-seven states have constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage. Some of them, including Kentucky, also forbid civil unions or other marriage-like legal arrangements. Efforts to pass a similar federal constitutional amendment have failed.

**Christina Gilgor**, executive director of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, which advocates gay rights, called the bishops' effort a "fantastic waste of effort and resources." She questioned whether an unhappily married couple would become happily married because the bishops are working to "defend marriage."

"They will merrily proceed because their effort is not so much about defending marriage as it is about keeping gay people in what they think of as our place. Gay Americans are as deserving as straight Americans to be treated with dignity and our relationships with respect."

Reporter Peter Smith can be reached at (502) 582-4469.



**A**s the newest member of the board, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself and to let you know how honored I am to serve as a board member at large for CSWNA. I am a native Texan (born in Laredo and raised in Corpus Christi) and have lived in the D.C.

area since 1990 (other than doing some volunteer work for the church and going to grad school). I have spent most of my career working with the elderly and disabled and in my current capacity, I provide counseling, education and research services to employees (adult children like us who may be caring for aging relatives/parents) in order to assist them with any eldercare needs and concerns that they may have. I enjoy working with families and owe my love for the elderly to the close relationship I had with my grandparents (who died at ages 100 and 96).

I am excited about all that this organization has to offer

from educational possibilities to networking opportunities. I feel so blessed to be part of an organization that can support us in our work and in our faith, providing us with a website and fellowship that is conducive for helping each other grow professionally and spiritually. We are in the midst of accepting proposals for our next conference, so if you would like to present or if you know of someone who may possibly like to speak at the conference (to be held in July 2009), please let me know. We have included the call for papers on our website so that everyone can view it. I also wanted to let you know that I am available if you have any needs, questions, or concerns that you would like represented or if you would just like to talk. The best way to reach me is by phone (202) 752-3949 or e-mail [eldercare\\_consultant@fanniema.com](mailto:eldercare_consultant@fanniema.com). I look forward to getting to know you in the coming year and can't wait to meet most of you at our next conference! I wish all of you a blessed holiday season...

~ Gracie Ortiz

*Coming Events:***January 2009**

- 06** International Counseling and Social Work Symposium; Penang, Malaysia
- 12** Behavioral Health & Addictive Disorders Conference; 25 Credit Hours for Continuing Education (CEUs); Clearwater Beach, Florida
- 22** Multidisciplinary Approach to Healthy & Participatory Aging; Mumbai, India
- 26** 23rd Annual San Diego International Conference on Child & Family Maltreatment; San Diego, CA

**February 2009**

- 01** Spiritual Care Summit '09; Walt Disney World. Florida
- 09** SECAD 2009 (Southeast Conference on Addictive Disorder); Atlanta, Georgia

**March 2009**

- 04** Interdisciplinary International Women's Studies Conference; Sakarya, Turkey
- 05** Palliative Medicine & Supportive Oncology 2009; Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- 12** Anxiety and Health: Translating Basic Science into Practice; Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico
- 20** Urban Transformations: Public and Private Practices for Social Change; Washington, DC
- 25-28** 12th National School Social Work Conference; Philadelphia, PA
- 27** You Raise Me Up; Perth, Australia

**April 2009**

- 14** Fourth International Social Work in Schools Conference; Auckland, New Zealand
- 16** 8th International Conference on the Care & Treatment of Offenders with a Learning Disability; Preston, United Kingdom
- 24** Pregnancy Loss and Unresolved Grief; Rachel's Vineyard: Indianapolis, IN

Social Work Conferences (Worldwide) <http://www.conferencealerts.com/socialw.htm>  
 Catholic Men's Conference - [catholicmensresources.org/conferences](http://catholicmensresources.org/conferences)  
 PESI Mental Health Conferences- continuing education conferences  
 Mental Health Conference Listing - [www.psychwatch.com/conference](http://www.psychwatch.com/conference)

**Catholic  
Charities**  
of Los Angeles, Inc.



*St. Vincent*  
**HEALTH**

**HALL  
RENDER**  
KILLIAN HEATH & LYMAN

## Stress-related Disorders Affect Brain's Processing Of Memory

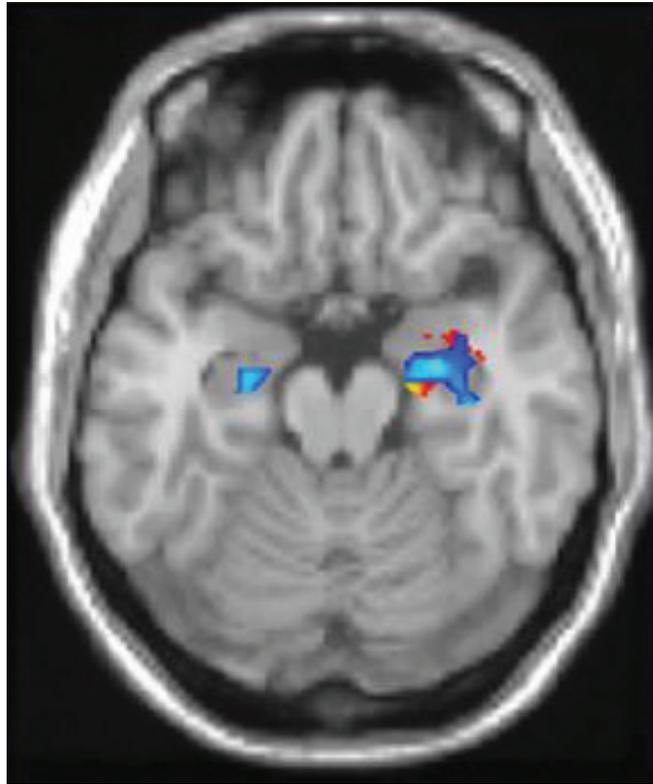
Researchers using functional MRI (fMRI) have determined that the circuitry in the area of the brain responsible for suppressing memory is dysfunctional in patients suffering from stress-related psychiatric disorders. Results of the study will be presented December 3 at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA).

"For patients with major depression and other stress-related disorders, traumatic memories are a source of anxiety," said **Nivedita Agarwal, M.D.**, radiology resident at the University of Udine in Italy, where the study is being conducted, and research fellow at the Brain Imaging Center of McLean Hospital, Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

"Because traumatic memories are not adequately suppressed by the brain, they continue to interfere with the patient's life."

Dr. Agarwal and colleagues used brain fMRI to explore alterations in the neural circuitry that links the prefrontal cortex to the hippocampus, while study participants performed a memory task. Participants included 11 patients with major depression, 13 with generalized anxiety disorder, nine with panic attack disorders, five with borderline personality disorder and 21 healthy individuals. All patients reported suffering varying degrees of stressful traumatic events, such as sexual or physical abuse, difficult relationships or "mobbing" – a type of bullying or harassment – at some point in their lives.

After reviewing a list of neutral word pairs, each participant underwent fMRI. During imaging, they were presented with one of the words and asked to either recall or to suppress the memory of its associated word. The fMRI images revealed that the prefrontal cortex, which controls the suppression and retrieval of memories processed by the hippocampus, showed abnormal activation in the patients with stress-related disorders compared to the healthy controls. During the memory suppression phase of the test, patients with stress-related disorders showed greater activation in the hippocampus, suggesting that insufficient activation of the prefrontal cortex could be the basis for inadequate suppression of unwanted traumatic memories stored in the hippocampus.



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showed greater activation in the hippocampus, suggesting that insufficient activation of the prefrontal cortex could be the basis for inadequate suppression of unwanted traumatic memories stored in the hippocampus.

"These data suggest that the mechanism for memory suppression is dysfunctional in patients with stress-related disorders primarily because of an alteration of the prefrontal cortex," Dr. Agarwal said. "These patients often complain of poor memory, which might in part be attributed to this altered circuitry," she added.

According to Dr. Agarwal, fMRI is an important tool in understanding the neurobiological basis of psychiatric disorders and in identifying imaging markers to psychiatric disease, helping clinicians

target specific parts of the brain for treatment.

The study's principal investigator is **Paolo Brambilla, M.D., Ph.D.** Co-authors are **Monica Baiano, M.D., Ph.D.**, **Massimo Bazzocchi, M.D.**, **Giuseppe Como, M.D.**, and **Marta Maieron, Ph.D.** *ScienceDaily* (Dec. 3, 2008)

### Employment Opportunities: CatholicJobs.com

Job ID# 2655106423  
 Posted: December 5, 2008  
 Company: Covenant House Washington  
 Location: Washington, DC  
 Title: Executive Director  
 Type: Social Work  
 Terms: FT Employee  
 Experience: 5-10 years  
 Education: Graduate Degree  
 Base Pay: \$100,000 to \$120,000 Salary

Job ID# 2322106421  
 Posted: December 4, 2008  
 Company: Jubilee Association  
 Location: Kensington, MD  
 Title: Support Counselor -- Developmental Disabilities  
 Type: Social Work  
 Terms: FT Employee  
 Experience: 0-2 years  
 Education: Undergraduate Degree  
 Base Pay: \$25,000 to \$30,000 Salary



*I*n the midst of financial crisis, Pope Benedict made a statement that immediately hit the headlines.

He said “with the collapse of big banks we see that money disappears, is nothing and all these things that appear real are in fact of secondary importance.” He further warned against attempting to build one’s life “only on things that are visible, such as success, career, money... The only solid reality is the word of God.”

His comments were extension of the Gospel message applied in perilous times. In times of plenty, there is a grave temptation to see in material goods the salvation of our lives. We cling to them, and we discover our disordered attachments in economic bad times. We can go further to observe that this is not only a problem in wealthy societies. Greed and godless materialism are

also features of poor societies as well, though they are expressed in a different form.

Benedict also wrote about another form of materialism that has revealed itself in this financial crisis: the belief that the state can solve all problems. As the crisis deepened, there were ever more calls on the head of the Federal Reserve and the Department of Treasury to do something magical to raise home prices, to lift stocks, to make bankrupt institutions liquid again, and to make the credit crisis disappear. We looked to visible things to save other visible things.

This was an act of mistaken faith. The state has no magic buttons it can push to make this happen. The forces of economics alive in the world are as much an intrinsic part of reality as gravity, and the laws of physics obey no government or central bank. Somehow people have a hard time accepting this fact. The belief in salvation by the state has been cultivated for centuries by intellectuals who stopped believing that the universe is in God’s hands. The state became their alternate creative force that can do and know all things. This was not only a problem for communism and Nazism; it is also a problem in all rich countries.

No more evidence is necessary than to point to the election and the debates surrounding it. Many people were looking to the two candidates to provide all answers and solve all problems. Their answers, as we might expect, were some or another version of “expand the state’s activities in one or another area of life.”

It is long past time that we fundamentally question the belief that public authority is capable of miracles. If we look at the present crisis, we can easily find evidence that it was precisely a variety of government interventions that brought the crisis about. It was the perfect storm of intervention in many ways, and the problems are very deep, beginning with the inflationary policy of the central bank dating back decades. Issues more recent in time include the push for looser credit to fuel the housing boom, the efforts to prevent housing prices from falling, the attempts to “save” lenders who got in trouble, and the draconian interventions in capital markets that included even a ban on short selling. None of these attempts fixed the problem; indeed, many economists believe that they made them worse.

The root problem, however, is not a matter of economics but theology and ethics. The loss of faith in God led to a new and profoundly distorted faith in the state as the savior of the world. The loss in an ethic of life led to a disrespect for the truth of freedom itself, which is the ethical foundation of the market economy. Freedom can be a visible thing but its roots are in an invisible theological outlook that affirms that the universe and mankind have a transcendent origin and purpose. Let us turn to God and pray for conversion away from false faiths toward eternal truths.

