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From the Editor's Desk

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Moderator's Page

The Catholic physician is continually challenged by his own colleagues as he practices his apostolic mission of teaching and healing.

His knowledge of the glaring data proving serious consequences, in fact even death, associated with the use of oral contraceptives and intrauterine devices compels him to speak up and discourage their use. As he voices objections to these types of contraceptives, abortion, sterilization and euthanasia he becomes an unpopular advocate, especially if his remarks are directed against governmental legislation or social programs.

Unfortunately, some physicians have compromised the principles of their noble profession for other values. They have surrendered their "birth right" — they have abrogated their lofty profession to others. The blaring noise of health authorities seems to have "out shouted" the voice of the Shepherd who cries "Follow Me."

The Right Reverend Patrick Casey, Bishop of Brentwood, England, cautioned the European Federation of Catholic Physicians at their Third Congress that "physicians should work hand in hand with legislators, but NOT hand in glove with them."

May those physicians who are temporarily discouraged recall the words of St. Paul (Phil. 27-2-11): "Do not be intimidated by your opponents in any situation. Their opposition foreshadows downfall for them, but salvation for you." So listen and obey the voice of the Church. Be strengthened—for the promise of Christ is "I will be with you always."

Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti

From the Editor's Desk

An international conference is always a stimulating affair, as it brings together dedicated intellectual leaders from diverse cultures to discuss topics of mutual interest. So it was with the Third International Congress of Catholic Physicians' Guilds held in London this past May. The meticulous arrangements of the planning committee under the talented and diligent guidance of its Secretary-General, Dr. Mary Reynolds, made for a complete intellectual, social and spiritual experience. The conference was well attended by the British, German, French, and Spanish guilds. The American guests included the President of the International Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, Dr. Gino Papola; Dr. Charles Bauda, Vice President of FIAMC; the

Episcopal Moderator, Msgr. Lorenzetti; and your Editor. Several other members from the United States also attended.

The conference began with Mass at Westminster Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Casey of Brentwood, Bishop Breitenbach of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bishop Harris of Liverpool, Msgr. Lorenzetti and several others.

The topics covered during the conference included euthanasia, human experimentation, sterilization, and the influence of legislation on the medical-moral climate of the various countries.

Discussions following the various talks were most vigorous. Birth control and *Humanae Vitae's* teaching were again debated, the German delegation seeming to raise the most dissent.

The problems facing our colleagues in India, where compulsory sterilization is the order of the day, became the most disturbing news of the entire conference. Under the threat of economic reprisals, the Indian citizen is being forced to undergo sterilization. These disturbing developments, reminiscent of Nazi Germany a generation ago, may well be the order of the day in every country if this trend is not combatted at its very inception. The God-given rights of human beings are being callously violated by a dictatorial government. While all agree that population has to be controlled, it has to be done in such a manner that the individual rights and conscience of the citizen are respected and protected by law.

This issue of *LQ* is devoted to homosexuality, and the articles have been solicited and edited by our most dedicated and capable Associate Editor, Dr. John Cavanagh of Washington, D. C., immediate past president of NFCPPG. This issue is the last under his editorship, and its contents are a fitting tribute to a dedicated Catholic physician and scholar whose efforts have advanced the thinking in medical-moral



Representing five nations at the recent Third International Congress, European Federation of Catholic Physicians Associations are, from left to right: Asia, Dr. C. J. Vas, India, Treasurer of FIAMC; Australia, Dr. Patricia Harrison; U. S. A., Dr. Gino G. Papola, President of FIAMC; Africa, Dr. Joan Lamplugh Petit, member FIAMC from Rhodesia; and Europe, Dr. Jean Lereboullet, President, European Region, FIAMC.

fields. His many articles have been marked by erudition and professional insight. They have been of immense help to us all as we struggle with ethical dilemmas in dealing with our patients. His retirement from the Editorial Board is an event that will affect us all, for Dr. Cavanagh is a man who cannot be replaced. The experience, wisdom and talents of this singular psychiatrist will be sorely missed, and we wish him God's choicest blessings in his retirement in sunny Southern California.

The topic of homosexuality, as evidenced by the articles in this issue, is highly controversial. However, it is timely that we present this issue to our readers.

Following the Third European Congress of European Catholic Physicians in London in May, Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti had the distinct privilege of an audience with representatives of the Holy See in Rome. Great interest in the Congress was expressed by the Holy See, and it is hoped that the contents of this issue will be similarly received. While many of the conclusions and contents of these articles are the subject of intense debate and controversy, the Catholic physician in his usual discerning manner will read them in the spirit in which they are published, *viz.*, an openness and candor for discussion. In his own practice and personal life his conscience, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, will lead the way. As John Henry Cardinal Newman said, "The guide of life, implanted in our nature, discriminating right from wrong, and investing right with authority and sway, is our Conscience, which revelation does but enlighten, strengthen and refine. Coming from one and the same Author, these external monitors of course recognize and bear witness to each other."

In these confusing times, the individual, well informed, enlightened conscience will, with the spirit of discernment, lead the Catholic doctor and his patients on the right path to their destinies—union with the Creator who made us all and died for us all.

John P. Mullooly, M.D.
Editor

Ave Atque Vale

It has been a pleasure to guest edit the *Linacre* for the last several years. My authors have been most generous with their time and ability. I hesitate to say it, being a modest man, but the quality of the articles in the August issues has been above reproach.

Age and poor health require that I dispense with my editorship. Editor or not, I shall continue to be an avid reader of the *Linacre*.

To Editor Mullooly and to all the members of the Editorial Board, my sincere thanks.

John R. Cavanagh, M.D.