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Our Hope: "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism"

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Our Hope—

"ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM"

At the annual meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guilds in New York this past summer, the Board of Directors of the Federation reluctantly accepted the resignation of Dr. William J. Egan, as Editor of the Linacre Quarterly. Elsewhere in this issue is a glowing tribute to the man who carried the burden of editorship of this journal for so many years. This obituary of praise was composed by a frequent contributor to the Linacre Quarterly, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Paul V. Harrington, Vice Officialis of the Archdiocese of Boston. All of the members of the Federation, and particularly the members of the Editorial Board, owe a great deal of gratitude to Dr. Egan for all that he has done for us. We join with Msgr. Harrington in his prayer that Almighty God will give Dr. Egan and his children "consolation, comfort, strength, and perseverance in the years ahead."

Since I assumed the post of Editor, I have been reflecting on the fact that we are living in a peculiar, revolutionary age where everything that has been taken for granted is suddenly being questioned from every conceivable angle. No longer does youth or society docilely accept what we never thought of questioning. Youth in its characteristically impetuous, abrasive manner desires to know the whys and wherefores of many complicated questions of our age; youth will not accept evasions, compromises, or outright hypocrisy. Youth wishes to communicate and participate; it demands instant answers to some rather perplexing problems. The problems of the impetuous, generous, younger generation are also the problems of us all and of society in general. We might ask ourselves if we have the answers to these problems that will satisfy the minds and aspirations of youth and society. Many of us would frankly admit that we are not as sure of ourselves as we were perhaps a generation ago. It is as though in 1969 a Pandora's box has been opened; and, as a result, the world seems to be on "tenterhooks," as Winston Churchill would say. Confusion reigns supreme and an uncertain trumpet is heard in the land. Some of the moral and ethical questions which the rapid advance of modern science has generated are not receiving the attention which they deserve by those to whom we traditionally look for moral guidance, namely, the moral theologian. This is understandable in view of the fact that scientific development has occurred so quickly that it is difficult enough even for the practicing physician to keep up with research let alone the moral theologians, whose scientific background is usually quite limited. To render sound theological opinions on the implications of these scientific developments is, perhaps, somewhat premature. Nevertheless, it is our hope that the Linacre Quarterly will help to stimulate discussion in some of these morally gray areas. It is our desire to present to our

readers informative, lucid articles which may help in the formation of their opinions. We shall attempt to articulate the problems in the framework of our traditional beliefs and concepts and to give guidance where guidance is possible. Where there is no uniformity of opinion the issues will be openly discussed. This approach should be no cause for alarm for truth has nothing to fear. By lucid discussion in controversial areas the mainstream of truth will eventually rise to the surface and be apparent to all.

As the only medical journal totally dedicated to the philosophy and ethics of medical practice we have a unique position. We represent a very definite point of view in this pluralistic society in which we find ourselves. The purpose of the Linacre is to make our physician readers aware of the ethical dimensions existing in their everyday practice so that they may be better Christians and, thus, better doctors for their patients. Therefore, let us hope that the years ahead of us, the 1970's and 1980's, will find us further along the road toward adding some wisdom, dignity, and sound moral principles to the prevailing discussion on human life, human experimentation, transplantation, abortion, euthanasia, biogenetic engineering, population control and social progress. Let us hope that the Linacre will become a forum for the discussion of ideas which affect all mankind; that our readers will feel free to contribute their thoughts to the dialogue by letters and/or articles to this editor. For it is only through efforts such as these that light will be shed upon these obscure, murky areas.

As the Linacre embarks on this course, the loyalty that a son has for his father should be evident in our relationship to Christ's Vicar on earth, Pope Paul VI. If we all remember and keep uppermost in our minds during these discussions the following words uttered by his namesake, St. Paul, in a letter to his beloved Ephesians while a prisoner in Rome, all will be well for us in the future: "Brethren: I plead with you, I, a prisoner for the Lord, to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, with perfect humility and meekness, and, with patience, support one another lovingly. Make every effort to preserve the unity whose source is the Spirit and whose bond is peace. There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope given you by your call. There is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is overall, and works through all, and is in us all, who is blessed forever. Amen." (Eph. 4/1-6)

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Editor

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