

November 1967

Moderator's Message ... The Profession of Medicine

Marvin Bordelon

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq>

Recommended Citation

Bordelon, Marvin (1967) "Moderator's Message ... The Profession of Medicine," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 34 : No. 4 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol34/iss4/1>

Moderator's Message...

Dr. Egan very considerably suggested that I devote this page to some discussion of the work of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' new Commission for World Justice and Peace. As you have noted, I resigned the pastorate of St. Joseph's Parish in Shreveport in June to accept the bishops' invitation to direct this Secretariat.

A bit of history . . .

During Vatican II the world's bishops asked themselves: What is the role of the Church in the modern world? And they tried hard, without complete success, to answer that question. The result of their efforts is the rather good Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. Good, but not complete. The bishops realized that, and in paragraph 90 of that document they recommended to the Pope that he set up a special "organism" in the Vatican that would continue to probe the vital question of the role of the Church in contemporary society.

In January of this year, in a special papal letter, Pope Paul implemented the Council's directive. He established the Pontifical Commission for World Justice and Peace, named Cardinal Maurice Roy of Quebec its president, and Msgr. Joseph Gremillion its director.

This Commission is charged by the Pope to "arouse the people of God to their full mission at the present time," especially in view of the actual situation on this planet—a situation that involved the acute needs of the "third world," the billion people who live at this moment in economic and social deprivation. How obtain justice for them? How does the growing imbalance between the "haves" on our planet and the "have-nots" relate to world peace? What is the role of Christians? Of all men of good will?

These questions, in the mind of the Pope, must be asked at the international level. They must be asked as well at the level of the nation, of the city, of the neighborhood, of the person.

The Holy Father means business. Not only did he establish the Pontifical Commission. He wrote an encyclical letter this year on the very subject, *Populorum Progressio*, on the "development of peoples" and he asks national hierarchies and local churches to get with the problem of justice and the challenge of forging the peace.

Our own national hierarchy has responded by establishing their own commission for justice and peace.

We are charged with arousing 50,000,000 Catholics in the U.S. and in consort with others, all 200,000,000 Americans to full awareness of their mission at the present time. This is quite a challenge, and a complex one.

Specifically, for the moment, what is the role of Catholic physicians? For example, in the face of comparative statistics from one developing country, Brazil, what is one to say or do?

Country	Bed spaces per 1000 inhabitants	Number of doctors per 10,000 inhabitants
Brazil	3.6	3.3
U.S.A.	10.6	13.2

In northeast Brazil "Life Expectancy is limited to 27 years. Of every thousand new-born children 350-400 die before reaching the age of one. Diarrhea and enteritis from foul water cause 40% of the deaths."

Aid . . . development . . . trade . . . I am my brother's brother.

Very Rev. Msgr. Marvin Bordonlon

ADVICE TO AUTHORS

Articles on topics of potential interest to the Catholic physician *as a Catholic and as a physician* are earnestly solicited. A goodly portion of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY readers are not members of the medical profession but are engaged in allied health fields, teach moral theology, or serve in hospitals, and material for their benefit would also be welcome. The subject matter may be predominantly philosophical, religious, or medico-moral in nature. Material should be typewritten, double-spaced, with good margins and on one side of the paper only. Manuscripts (*original and one copy*) should be submitted to the Editorial Office of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY, 1438 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri, 63104. One additional copy should be retained by the author. Full editorial privileges are reserved. References if used should appear at the end of the article and should conform to the usage of the *Index Medicus*. (This format is that employed in the Abstract Section of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY.) A brief but pertinent *curriculum vitae* of the author(s) should accompany the manuscript. The Thomas Linacre Award is made annually to the author(s) of the original article adjudged to be the best to appear in THE LINACRE QUARTERLY during each calendar year.