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The President's Page

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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President's Page

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as the president of the National Federation during the past year. I wish to thank the national and individual Guild officers for the cooperation I have received during my term of office. I am grateful to the administrative officers in St. Louis who have effectively served the purposes of this Federation and particularly to Miss Jean Read who has made it possible to perform the many duties of the office of president.

During my term I have attempted to accomplish three objectives:

1. To encourage local officers to develop more unified and active Guilds to become an effective arm of the lay apostolate in their dioceses.

2. To establish better communication between local Guilds and the National Federation. I have urged the groups to appoint a permanent corresponding secretary who would keep our central office advised of Guild activities and address changes of all members.

3. To strengthen the relation of our Federation with other national Catholic organizations having mutual interests.

To develop the first aim I have urged local Guild presidents to function through an executive committee meeting regularly to coordinate and implement programs. They have also been asked to appoint members of their Guilds to national committees which serve Family Life, Medical Missions, Health Care of Clergy and Religious, Medical Students, Interns and Residents, and Medical Education and Research. We have been somewhat disappointed in the response to the latter as less than a fourth of our Guilds have appointed national members. On the other hand, we look with encouragement to the increase in activities that has been demonstrated by some local groups. Reports of these activities appear in *Guilds in Action*.

In developing communication with national organizations with interests that parallel ours, we are very pleased with present progress. During the past year we were invited to participate in the national meeting of CICOP which is concerned with missionary activities in Latin America. In October we co-sponsored with the Family Life Bureau of NCWC an international symposium on rhythm which was attended by physicians from most of the dioceses of the country. At present we are developing a committee to work with the Catholic Press Association in response to the resolution passed by the Federation in June, regarding the quality of medical advertisements in Catholic periodicals. We have had extensive association with the Catholic Medical Mission Board which has assisted many Guilds in developing missionary activities. We look forward to an expansion of programs in this area.

The new Constitution ratified in June, providing incorporation of the National Federation, will permit continued growth, not only in members but will expand the activities of Guilds. This will develop through regional meetings to which we will look as a vehicle to bring to the local level important projects which have been a part of national planning over the past several years.

I know I can assure the new officers that you will all cooperate in the programs they will devise during the next year.

CLEMENT P. CUNNINGHAM, M.D.