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Minutes: National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, Executive Board Meeting

Bernard J. O'Loughlin

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Minutes
NATIONAL FEDERATION of CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS
Executive Board Meeting

Sir Francis Drake Hotel
San Francisco, California

June 24, 1964

ROLL CALL

Officers present:

Clement P. Cunningham, M.D.—President
Gerard P. J. Griffin, M.D.—First Vice-President
Fred M. Taylor, M.D.—Third Vice-President
Bernard J. O'Loughlin, M.D.—Secretary
John M. Malone, M.D.—Treasurer

Affiliated Guilds represented:

Piero Albi, M.D.—Denver, Colorado
James T. Nix, M.D.—New Orleans, La.
James H. Masterson, M.D.—Alexandria (No. Va.), Va.
Joseph A. Grady, M.D.—Detroit, Michigan
Alexander M. Minno, M.D.—Pittsburgh, Pa.
Frank O. Benchik, M.D.—Hammond, Indiana
John J. Satory, M.D.—LaCrosse, Wisc.
Andrew W. Shea, M.D.—Minneapolis, Minn.
B. L. Kreilkamp, M.D.—Boise, Idaho
Joseph L. Kennedy, M.D.—Boston, Mass.
Rosalie M. Reardon, M.D.—Oakland, Calif.
F. R. Dion, M.D.—Seattle, Wash.
H. E. Lorenz, M.D.—Sacramento, Calif.
V. W. Cangello, M.D.—Oakland, Calif.
Richard J. Lescoe, M.D.—Los Angeles (Torrance Branch), Calif.
Robert B. Crum, M.D.—Los Angeles, Calif. (Inglewood)
Ingino Grossi, M.D.—Union County, Elizabeth, N.J.
Philip V. Daugherty, M.D.—Nashville, Tenn.
James T. Lukens, M.D.—Sacramento, Calif.
Frederick R. Schlichting, M.D.—Santa Clara County, San Jose, Calif.
Gino G. Papola, M.D.—Philadelphia (St. Francis of Assisi), Pa.
Mary E. Longo, M.D.—Philadelphia (St. Francis of Assisi), Pa.
Robert Buckley, M.D.—Los Angeles (Bay District), Calif.
Charles Googooian, M.D.—Los Angeles, Calif.
Bernard P. Harpole, M.D.—Portland, Oregon
Norbert Barwasser, M.D.—Rock Island, Ill.
Reverend Kenneth P. MacKinnon—National Moderator
John A. Driscoll, M.D.—San Francisco, Calif. (observer)
Frank A. Solomon, Jr., M.D.—San Francisco, Calif. (observer)
Edmund T. Hackman, M.D.—Providence, Rhode Island (observer)

Following Mass at Old St. Mary's Church, celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph T. McGucken, Archbishop of San Francisco, and an excellent sermon by Reverend Kenneth P. MacKinnon, our new Moderator, all met for breakfast at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel. At 10:25 a.m. the delegates were called to order by President Cunningham. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Minutes of the Winter Executive Board Meeting held November 8, 1963, not be read, but be accepted as published.

President Cunningham gave a brief report on his stewardship, emphasizing his dependence on vigorous and active committees. He thanked the chairmen of these various committees for their hard work and suggested that recruits be found to bring in fresh ideas and new workmen so that those of long standing could be somewhat relieved. He pointed to the large volume of correspondence in which his office is engaged and suggested that rather than curtail same, it should be encouraged in the future; this tends to invigorate local Guilds.

THE LINACRE QUARTERLY is still growing. The most recent issues are thought to have been outstanding. President Cunningham noted with gratitude the fine service performed by Reverend John J. Flanagan, S.J. who has just resigned as Editor. Dr. William J. Egan of Boston is taking over the editorial responsibilities.

President Cunningham called upon Father MacKinnon for the report of the Moderator. Father MacKinnon reported that he was impressed with the religious and medical competence of the doctors and felt that such unflagging enthusiasm should be shortly rewarded with an outstanding organization. He offered his assistance to the organization in any way possible and promised to communicate fre-

quently with other Moderators throughout the country so that they may present a more unified and coherent plan of assistance to the Guilds.

President Cunningham made a brief report on the special meeting held in St. Louis to consider the problems presented by the publication of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY and the resignation of Father Flanagan as Editor. This meeting took place on April 24, 1964.

It was reported that there are now 11,300 subscribers to the journal. The problem of the resignation of the Editor has been met as noted above, in addition to which various local areas will be asked to edit special editions of the magazine.

Dr. Fred M. Taylor, Third Vice-President of the Federation, was introduced to read the new Constitution and By-Laws. It was moved, seconded and passed that they be accepted as presented. In discussing the new Constitution, Dr. Joseph Kennedy of the St. Luke Guild of Boston reported that his group wondered if this revision might not produce too much paper work and whether it might be more costly to operate the Federation. The Boston Guild does not want an increase in dues. There was almost unanimous approval of these sentiments, which did not seem to detract from approval of the Constitution.

Standing committees were asked for their reports.

Dr. James T. Nix gave an accounting of the Health Care of Clergy and Religious Program. This seems to be extremely successful in its education and research. The Conference of Religious Superiors is giving it their wholehearted approval. One of the interesting by-products of the Care of Religious Studies is that nuns appear to be healthier, happier, and longer lived. This may have a future bearing on vocations.

The President called on Dr. John Malone for the Treasurer's Report. Dr. Malone moved that the published audit be accepted.

Dr. Gino G. Papola was called upon for the report of the Religious Activities Committee which follows:

In an effort to set up a national program of religious activities and at the same time determine how active the member Guilds are in this area, a letter was sent to the 105 Guilds asking for a list of the religious projects in which they engage; 57 replies were received, or about 50% return. Whether this means the other half are inactive or too active to reply is difficult to determine. Following is a breakdown of the replies received:

- 52 participated in the White Mass
- 37 conducted retreats or days of recollection
- 2 recited the Rosary as a group
- 2 participated in 40-Hour Devotions as a group.

It is apparent from this that except for the White Mass which has been a firm part of the Catholic Physicians' Guilds, the only other activity is the retreat or day of recollection. We emphasize this only because we feel this is not sufficient. There are many who disagree, stating that doctors have more meetings than they can attend and that participating in too many religious activities takes time from the family. It is not the committee's purpose to create more meetings or further separate the doctor from his family. Many such projects can be pursued with the family. The White Mass is not limited to the physician but most certainly includes his family. Week-end retreats or days of recollection only means devoting the time that might otherwise be given to fishing or golfing when the doctor is away from his family. Monthly recitation of the rosary on First Fri-

day in the hospital chapel takes only about fifteen minutes from lunch-time or the extra few minutes spent in the staff room exchanging stories. If there is a desire to participate in religious activities there are ways of doing so with only slight inconvenience.

Stimulation of religious observances is an important facet of our organization and the common bond we must nourish as a part of our daily lives. The following is a list of religious activities which we would like to see fostered:

- 1) The White Mass—a most important activity. There is at present a move for a special Mass to be arranged.
- 2) Retreats or Days of Recollection and introduction of the Cursillo in which the layman takes part with the priest.
- 3) Monthly recitation of the Rosary, perhaps on First Friday, or for deceased members of the Guild.
- 4) Active participation in 40-Hour Devotions which Catholic hospitals observe annually. Guild members could be part of the procession and assist the priest throughout the Devotions.

The Religious Activities Committee hopes it can stimulate interest in this area which is a primary purpose of our existence and which should be the tie which binds our Guilds together and makes them needed, wanted and productive.

A question was raised as to whether or not a Legislative Activity Committee might not be necessary.

The Family Life Committee Chairman, Dr. Thomas A. Hayes, prepared the following:

The training of many physicians and priests was accomplished before

accurate methods of determining ovulation had been devised. Many harbor doubts about "rhythm." It is apparent that some of the confusion is the result of misinformation. Married couples seek the advice of both priests and physicians on the practice of periodic continence. It is inconceivable that members of either group could counsel or advise couples successfully without accurate information and confidence based on experience with its proper application. Since periodic continence is the only method of fertility control which is morally acceptable, there is urgent need for the exchange of information about the determination of ovulation by the temperature method.

Therefore, it is suggested that each Guild plan a program with the clergy in the area, scheduled at a time when the maximum number of priests and physicians might attend. The meeting should begin with a brief but formal summary of one or both of the references listed. The discussion leader should be a physician well informed on the temperature method and confident of its results so that an informal question period could follow the presentation. Each person attending should familiarize himself with the sources listed.

To reiterate, the purposes of this meeting are to dispel doubts and instill confidence in the temperature method of determining fertility and to foster the exchange of information about problems of conjugal life.

References: Marshall, John: *The Infertile Period*

Nabors, George: *Making Rhythm Work*, *Marriage Magazine* (June 1964)

Dr. James H. Masterson discussed the need of priests and clergy for education in family problems, responsible

parenthood and the rhythm method. Delegates from Sacramento and Portland discussed the advisability of setting up responsible parenthood or rhythm clinics. Dr. Bernard Harpole of Portland reported that their clinic is functioning well and apparently quite successfully.

Dr. Joseph E. Grady reported on the Medical Missions Committee. As the new Chairman, he is zealous in promoting the welfare of the missions but had not been conversant with some of the problems presented by the Catholic Medical Mission Board and the Mission Doctors Association. It was moved, seconded and passed that the report on medical missions be held until Dr. Grady has an opportunity to include in this report the activities reported by Dr. Richard Lescoe of the M.D.A. from Los Angeles, California. This will be presented in November at the New Orleans meeting. Moved by Dr. Bernard O'Loughlin and seconded by Dr. Robert Buckley.

Dr. George Price, Chairman of the Medical Students Committee, was not present but, by mail, indicated plans for the Fall. Through the National Newman Club apostolate contact is being made to secure names and addresses of interns and residents for future Guild membership or organization of new groups. The Moderator of the Newman Club groups has supplied a list of those in medical schools, which names are being published in the August issue of *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*. Guilds are asked to work along with those in their localities.

Two resolutions were presented by the Resolutions Committee. They are as follow:

(From the Toledo, Ohio Guild)

WHEREAS: some hospitals deny the admittance of Negro patients and qualified physicians who are

Negroes, to medical staffs, to internships and residency training programs and

WHEREAS: the denial of these hospital privileges is a civil and moral wrong, therefore, be it resolved that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, in recognizing the Fatherhood of God and respecting the Brotherhood of Man, go on record as opposing discrimination and segregation of Negroes in hospitals.

This was moved, seconded and passed.

A Resolution on Drugs and Nostrums by Dr. Bernard L. Kreilkamp of Twin Falls, Idaho was presented:

WHEREAS: the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the publication *Your Health and Your Life* reports that one billion dollars is spent annually on fake remedies in the field of health and

WHEREAS: it is well known to all physicians that more serious than this tremendous financial loss is the delay in proper diagnosis and treatment that may lead to serious consequences or even death and

WHEREAS: it is common experience for certain segments of the Catholic press to accept certain fakes and nostrums such as arthritis remedies, cures for impotency, hernia treatments,

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the N.F.C.P.G. take positive action to:

1. Advise Catholic editors of the

great harm they are inadvertently doing to their readers—their readers who depend on their publications for the truth in all things.

2. That one of the present permanent committees of the N.F.C.P.G. be delegated to offer their services in an advisory capacity to the Catholic Press, in matters of health and medical advertising.

This was moved, seconded and passed.

President Cunningham briefly discussed the Department of Religion of the American Medical Association. He urged our support of the activities of this department.

The winter meeting of the Federation was announced for New Orleans, La. November 12, 13 and 14. Following the meeting scheduled for the 12th, a two day Conference on Medical Education and Research sponsored by the Federation with the cooperation of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada will be conducted. There will be a \$15.00 registration fee for non-Guild members. The meeting will be held at the Monteleone Hotel. The President announced the international meetings in Malta, Bombay, Chicago and the Philippine Islands.

There was no unfinished nor new business. The President requested written reports from the Guilds.

After a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bernard J. O'Loughlin, M.D.

Secretary

National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds