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Catholic Physicians' Guild

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# Reverend John J. Flanagan, S. J. Named Health Association Executive of the Year 1964

Editor's Note: In recognition of service to the hospital field, *Hospital Management* has acclaimed Father Flanagan, executive director of *The Catholic Hospital Association* and consulting editor of *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY Health Association Executive* of the year. The tribute published in the August issue of *Hospital Management* is reprinted here with permission of the editors. To mark the occasion, a suitably inscribed scroll and a plaque were presented to Father Flanagan on August 24 at the Breakfast of Awards sponsored annually by *Hospital Management*.

REVEREND JOHN J. FLANAGAN, S.J., Executive Director of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, has contributed markedly to the growth and development of the Catholic hospital system and his contributions to the health field are too numerous to document.

Father's boyhood was spent on a farm in Iowa, an unusual background for the responsibilities he was later to assume. In 1924 he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Creighton University and in 1926 his LL.B. Degree from the same university. Father forsook a career in law to enter the Society of Jesus and prepare for the priesthood. In 1929 he was awarded a Master of Arts Degree by Saint Louis University and was ordained in 1936.

Shortly after ordination, Father Flanagan was appointed Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of Saint Louis University. With this appointment Father embarked upon a career in administration that has occupied much of his priestly life, a career for which he was eminently suited both by temperament and ability. Recognizing his unusual skills in this area, his superiors appointed him Dean of Regis College in Denver in 1939, a post which he held until 1942 when he was made President of Regis College.

Having successfully served as Dean during the difficult war years and the immediate post-war period, Father had yet to accept his greatest challenge. The Catholic Hospital Association had for years served Catholic hospitals with a limited staff in limited areas of activity. In 1947 the Executive Board of the Catholic Hospital Association revised the existing structure of the Association and outlined a greatly expanded educational program for its members. The newly created full time position of Executive Director required leadership by one completely orientated to the development of such educational programs and Father Flanagan, although his knowledge of the health field was limited, accepted the challenge and through his efforts the Catholic Hospital Association has become an effective force in the health field.

During his tenure in office which began in 1947, Father Flanagan has initiated several projects which have contributed to the continuing growth of the membership. Among these are the Conference of Catholic Schools of Nursing, the Department of Continuing Education, and the Catholic Conference of Services for the Aging. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Hospital Administrators in 1958 and has actively participated in College activities.