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President's Message

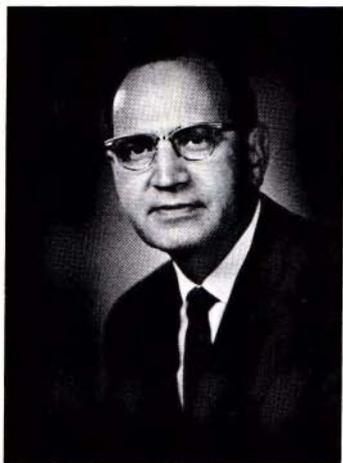
Catholic Physicians' Guild

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President's Message



Charles A. Bauda, M.D.

My first task as president is to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Dr. Charles Pfister, and offer our thanks. Confronted with the problem of coping with the voices of dissent, he tried to direct these voices toward a dialogue.

No one president can possibly accomplish the goals of Catholic physicians in these difficult times. Instead, there must be a continuing leadership of dedicated physicians eager to sustain the Roman Catholic philosophy and ethic without compromise. Each may use a different approach to reach the same goals — I feel that the avenue of approach for the coming year should be to initiate a meaningful dialogue with the hierarchy of the Church. In keeping with the spirit of Vatican II and as members of the lay apostolate, we wish to fulfill our role in the life of the Church by lending our medical expertise to the theological knowledge of the hierarchy and then abiding by the teaching magisterium with unstinted loyalty.

I foresee our greatest influence as a National Association of Catholic Physicians in the field of medical ethics. This prediction has been brought into sharper focus because of the change in policy of the American Medical Association, heretofore regarded as the leader in medical ethics. How can physicians be guided any longer by the ethics of the A.M.A. when it is guilty of moral casuistry for changing its stance on the abortion issue to conform to liberalized abortion laws? Such a policy could lead to that state of medicine without ethic outlined by the Reverend Charles Carroll in an address to the Louisiana State Medical Society in May, 1972.

The vehicle best suited to spread our influence in medical ethics is *The Linacre Quarterly*. There have been some reservations — as well as enthusiasm — expressed by association members regarding the resolution of the Board of Directors to broaden the scope of the *Linacre* in order to extend our influence to more physicians, Catholic and non-Catholic. I myself

had some mental reservations about the change. However, I have been convinced by Dr. John Brennan, our president-elect, and Dr. Mullooly, the editor, that the *Linacre* will follow a policy in strict conformance with Catholic doctrine even though a diversity of opinion will be allowed expression. No compromise of this posture will be intended or tolerated. With this assurance, I have given my consent in the hope that it will accomplish its purpose.

In conclusion I ask your prayers and assistance that I may responsibly fulfill my obligation to the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds as its president for the coming year. Thank you.

Charles A. Bauda, M.D.
President

Dr. Paganelli Receives Linacre Award

Dr. Vitale H. Paganelli, a frequent *Linacre* contributor, received the Thomas Linacre Award for 1971 at the annual meeting of the NFCPG in Cincinnati in November. The award was for the article, "The Catholic Physician, the Teaching Magisterium and the Theologian," which appeared in the May, 1971, issue.

Born and raised in the New York City area, Dr. Paganelli graduated from Georgetown University and received his M.D. from the New York Medical College in 1955. A general practitioner in Glens Falls, New York, he has served as an associate editor of *Linacre* and as a regional director of the National



Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. Several years ago, he traveled to Guatemala to do mission work there.