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President's Page

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At the recent national meeting in New Orleans, Dr. Paul Ramsey, the *Linacre* awardee for 1978, confessed to being uncertain of the definition of chastity and suggested that fidelity would be more meaningful. Fidelity sounds the clarion call to us.,

Strength is inherent in fidelity; fidelity to self, to spouse, to family, to fellowman, to colleagues, to society, to God. Are we as Catholic physicians fulfilling this duty of fidelity to the Christian ideal?

John Paul I and now John Paul II have reaffirmed the Church's fidelity to God's creation. Our new Pope brings quiet strength to the universal Church. Now, more than ever, in a world that daily shrinks in size, we feel an obligation to fellowmen wherever their habitat. We have a duty to mankind the world over, a duty to make available adequate food, shelter, education, guidance, medical care.

The start of a new year for the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds parallels the new era in our Church. Pope John Paul II is truly a Universal Pope as he demonstrated so clearly during his investiture. His leadership insures the continuum of Christ's Church, impressing upon us the up-to-the-minute relevance of the Church in today's world.

Our commitment as Catholic physicians extends far beyond the obligation to remain faithful to Catholic teaching regarding abortion, contraception and sterilization. We are committed to maintaining the strength and integrity of the family. We are committed to caring, healing, helping each person we touch because we see the image of God in our fellowman, the image of Christ in every person who has a need at whatever cost to self.

And for us — to what can we look forward? Pope John XXIII wrote it: "In the end, all turns out for the good of those who are faithful to . . . the Lord."

— Joseph J. Ricotta, M.D.