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Letters to the Editor

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Letters to the Editor . . .

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To: All National Catholic Medical Associations or Guilds

Dear Friends,

The preparations for the 17th World Congress of FIAMC are well under way. The World Congress will be held in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, on *September 14-19, 1990*. The venue is the brand new Hotel and Congress Center Maritim. The theme of the Congress will be "Biological nature and dignity of the human person". There will be lectures, discussions in language groups, reports, exhibitions and an interesting social program. Bonn is the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany, beautifully located on the shore of the Rhine and easy to reach. Pre- and post congress tours (one to Oberammergau with the Passion Play, as well as others to the Black Forest and to Berlin) have been organized.

We will send to you in due time *complete information* concerning the program, registration fee, social activities, exhibition tours, etc. What we would like to do is to call your attention to the Congress and ask you to keep the dates in mind when preparing the activities for next year; and, of course, to give this information to your members, so that they may prepare well in advance that participation.

We expect to greet you and as many as possible of your members in Bonn, in a truly World Congress of FIAMC.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. W. Osswald
Secretary-General
of FIAMC

Comment on Health Care

To the Editor:

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the second day of presentations at the

National Convention in Houston and therefore may have missed some information. I found the first day however, interesting and informative. It nevertheless occurred to me that all of us continue to complain about the sorry state that Medicine is in today and we anticipate with resignation the gruesome inevitability of some kind of health care rationing system in the not too distant future because of a lack of finances. None of us however, even try to think of some alternate pathway.

I certainly don't have any answers at this time, but I believe we must make every attempt to prevent this limitation of services. Christian physicians especially, should be standing up and stating that although we don't have all the answers, nevertheless, we do know that a rationing system is *just not acceptable*.

This stand is quite similar to our stand on abortion. I freely admit that I don't have solutions for all the unwanted children, abused children, handicapped children, etc. I do know however that the solution is not to kill them.

If the cost of Medicine is too high, let us analyze why and do something positive to decrease it. If our fees are disproportionately high, lower them. If malpractice lawsuits running rampant are driving up the costs in every aspect of Health Care, let us work with the attorneys to control them. If Hospitals and other Health Care Institutions can be operated more efficiently, let us work towards that goal.

All of the above and others you may want to add must be addressed, but this Society must take a stand and say that we will provide the best Health Care possible to all of God's people, not just the wealthy or advantaged.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Ditlow Jr., M.D.
Groves, TX