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From the Editor's Desk

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The National Catholic Physicians' Guilds – A Community of Prayer

At a recent meeting of the NFCPG Board, the question was raised as to whether there was enough of a "sense of community" within the Guilds. I have pondered this question these past few months and while it is impossible to answer it definitively, it certainly makes us all very reflective. What is a sense of community? In my own mind it seems that the national, as well as the local Guilds, must be a group of physicians dedicated to one end, mutually supporting one another to attain this end. To do this, they must be of one mind in their chosen vocation to heal the sick and should nourish one another in this task. The Guilds of Catholic physicians should pay more attention to this mutual support by praying with one another, invoking the healing action of the Holy Spirit to permeate the group. At a recent meeting of the board of the Milwaukee Guild, this was done. It was one of the most profound experiences that I had ever experienced at a board meeting and I would recommend it to all my colleagues throughout the Guild structure. The many burdens of daily practice seemed so much easier to handle. To know that your colleagues have gathered together with you in prayerful meditation and supplication reaffirms you in your ideals, invigorates you to carry on and lightens the burden. It also draws you closer to your brother physician. I am afraid that some of us have forgotten about the healing power of prayer and

try to do it all ourselves, hoping that the good Lord will pitch in once in awhile when the going gets rough.

While we have all seen the alienation amongst our fellow physicians over the years in regard to honest disputes about medico-moral problems, it should be no reason for us to separate and remain alienated. It is high time for us Catholic physicians to forget our differences, join together in prayerful unity and allow the healing action of the Divine Physician to permeate our very souls and that of our community of Catholic physicians.

There used to be a great slogan popularized by Father Patrick Peyton years ago: "The family that prays together, stays together." I say, "The Catholic Physicians' Guilds which prays together will not only stay together, but will flourish." The untold benefits to ourselves, our families and patients, cannot be estimated if this type of spiritual rejuvenation takes place in every Guild throughout the land.

— John P. Mullooly, M.D.