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President's Page

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President's Page

As I write my first "President's Page" for *The Linacre Quarterly*, I want to take this opportunity to share a few of my personal thoughts, observations, and concerns with all of you.

I will start by announcing that a very significant and important event for the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was the recent acceptance by Bernard Cardinal Law of Boston to be our Episcopal Advisor. This event, along with the recent appointment of Father Donald McGuire, S.J. as our Spiritual Advisor, makes our organization "complete" once again.

I have been impressed by the attendance of new physicians and young physicians at our annual national meetings, starting with our Houston, Texas meeting.

I am encouraged also by the increase in new members applying to the NFCPGs. I assume that with our *Linacre Quarterly* publication, our newsletter, and our annual meetings, we provide some of the moral and ethical resources that these physicians search for.

I would like to switch from the positive aspects that I have listed above and now call to your attention some of my concerns for the continued re-vitalization of our organization.

I feel very confident when I state that we all agree on the absolute necessity of the existence of this organization. We all feel very strongly about what we stand for.

Your board has started to address some issues and problems. In order for this process to work, it is imperative that we are made aware of your

concerns on the issues. I would like to take this opportunity to invite each of you to feel free to contact me directly with any problem or concern of yours that impacts on our organization. I also welcome suggestions if you see some potential solution.

A committee is currently reviewing our annual statement, which is mailed to each member from our home office in Elm Grove, WI. This review was necessary to clear up questions from several local guilds about the statement.

Some other issues that the Board is currently addressing include our annual meeting. Should we limit our annual meeting to three or four cities, based perhaps on accessibility or previous attendance in each particular city? Should our annual meetings continue to be the responsibility of one individual or of a committee?

We also review our membership list at each Board meeting. Several physicians retire, but there are others who drop out of the NFCPGs without explanation or further contact. I would invite comments from any member who may know of some reason for this. We will then promptly address the matter.

Finally, we need to be more visible and accessible so the new physician can make a valid personal decision about membership in the NFCPG.

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you the "State of the National Federation" and some of the objectives and goals I would like to establish in my year as President.

I invite you to share in my enthusiasm for the re-vitalization of our organization especially as we look ahead to medicine in the 21st Century. What type of medicine and physicians will our children and grandchildren have available to them?

I am looking forward to this next year as President. I will try to keep you updated on the progress we are making as part of my "President's Page" in each issue of *The Linacre Quarterly*.

I welcome your support, your prayers, criticisms and recommendations — in any order you wish to provide them.

Here's to a good '91 - '92 for the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

— **Charles R. Hermes, M.D.**
President
