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Letters to the Editor ...

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Letters to the Editor . . .

To the Editor:

Dr. Herbert Nakata was the personification of a gentleman and a scholar. His polite and gentle manner concealed the strength of his devotion to the truth in his professional and spiritual life. He was born on the island of Molokai in the state of Hawaii into a Buddhist family. He was sent to Honolulu by his father to study at a Catholic high school where, under the influence of a charismatic teacher and spiritual advisor, he was converted to the Catholic Church. Like most converts, he was dedicated to orthodoxy and was fiercely loyal to the Holy Father and the teachings of the Magisterium. During the AMA meeting in Honolulu in December, 1994, my wife and I had lunch with Dr. and Mrs. Nakata at the home of Herb's sister where he was convalescing from therapy for a renal carcinoma. At lunch we met Herb's 85-year-old mother who had recently been converted to Catholicism. She was the last member of the Nakata family to be converted, all as a result of Herb's deep spirituality and irresistible proselytizing.

We feel very fortunate to have shared this time with Herb and Ginny shortly before his death and to hear from him his deep love of God as he contemplated his terminal illness.

I wisely recruited Dr. Nakata into the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds where his warmth and competence led eventually to his election as president in 1985. The annual meeting in Honolulu which he arranged and over which he presided was generally conceded to be one of the outstanding meetings in our history. Herb was also a founding member of the American Association of Pro-Life Pediatricians and shared with his wife a devotion to the sanctity of human life through their involvement in crisis pregnancy counseling.

The National Federation is enriched by members with the character and the Christian example of Dr. Nakata, just as his life was

enriched by his membership in an organization which provided a forum and a reinforcement for his most deeply held values.

In the words of Sophocles "We must wait until evening to know the splendor of the day". We recognize in his passing the splendid life of Dr. Herbert Nakata and the unique meaning his life had to a loving family, respectful colleagues and those privileged to know him as a friend. We are confident that the memories of their exemplary husband and father will sustain his wife and children as we extend to them our sympathies.

— Eugene F. Diamond, M.D.
Chicago, IL