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President's Page

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Our Federation has just completed one of its most successful national meetings. Successful in terms of the planning and quality of the program and in terms of the numbers of members attending and actively participating in the discussions. Many problems were discussed and at times rather sharp differences of opinion arose. It was evident to all, I believe, that the sharpest difference of opinion arose over the full meaning and the practical application of Pope Paul's encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*.

While the paramount issue of concern at the meeting was contraception, it was not the only one. If we are to be true Christian physicians we must commit ourselves to as many issues of today as possible. These include but are not limited to racial injustice, poverty, ignorance, maldistribution of medical care, abortion, malnutrition, euthanasia, and destruction of man as an individual. We must always remember that as physicians we are committed to the total care of our patients. This implies that we have the obligation to remain abreast of all medical developments and those developments in other disciplines that could affect this total care. Naturally, none of us can know all of that to which I make reference, we can only try.

One aspect of these discussions that was so impressive was the clear indication that opinions had been formed only after serious personal and collective deliberation. All wished to solve the multiple problems of today's world in the light of God's revealed teachings and moral principles. Yet, one's interpretation of these teachings and these principles will vary with one's background, one's past, and continuing education and new truths. With true Christian charity, it must be remembered and acknowledged by all of us that difference of opinion does not always mean intentional departure from or denial of God's will.

It is in this latter spirit that we formed and passed a Resolution on this subject. I urge all of our members to read this Resolution, to accept it in the above mentioned spirit, and to implement it.

**John M. Malone M.D.
President**