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President's Page

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President's Page . . .

Every new President upon taking office makes plans and sets goals for his administration. The basic goal of my administration was conceived about four years ago, and has been diligently and carefully worked on by the past three to four administrations. This goal is the XII International Congress of Catholic Physicians which is to be held in Washington, D.C. on October 11-14, 1970. This will be the first International Congress of Catholic Physicians ever to be held in the United States. It is the most ambitious and important undertaking that the National Federation has ever tackled. The success of this endeavor will not be because of any contribution of mine, but because of the foresight of the immediate past three to four presidents, and because of the hard work of people like Dr. Rosalie Albers, the General Chairman, and Dr. Charles Bauda, the Program Chairman, and many others too numerous to mention.

There is still much to be done. We are going to need the help of every Catholic physician in the United States. As President, I beg for all your help, I beg for the help of all physicians, I beg for the help of the Bishops of the United States that, together with those physicians who are dedicated to Catholic morals and ethics, they can arouse and stir those physicians who have become lethargic and silent. I am sure that all of you will help, that many physicians will make the trip to Washington, and that the Shepherds of the flock will give us the guidance we need to make the National Federation a living and working organization.

As a viable and working organization, the National Federation will not only be recognized as existing, but will be recognized as an organization interested in the welfare of every human being, regardless of who he is or where he is. It will also be recognized as an organization capable of supplying sound medical knowledge which when combined with the sound theological teachings of the Pope and the Bishops will give honor and witness to Almighty God, which after all is the reason why all of us have been given the gift of life by the Creator.

As physicians, we must make use of this gift with every ounce of our strength. We must get involved in the issues which affect all mankind, be it on a local, national or international level. We must speak out and be heard. We cannot remain in our medical shells, but must give direction to society and to our Church by our constant and vigilant involvement in the political affairs of our country and in the affairs of our Church.

Therefore in beginning this year which marks our entrance into a decade which will see more agitation to change the moral codes of living, I pray to God, that He will give direction to the National Federation; direction which will help us guide society and our Church in the application of the basic morals and ethics of medical practice to the new technological developments of this exciting era. This will be the biggest challenge that the Catholic physician will have to face, that of fitting the basic, fundamental morals and ethics of practice into our changing world and still keep intact the message given to us by the Divine Physician.

Gino G. Papola, M.D.
President