

February 1969

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds

Present were 62 Guild members representing 39 affiliated Guilds of the Federation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dr. O'Loughlin announced that Father Kenneth MacKinnon of Detroit will be the N.F.C.P.G. moderator for the next two years succeeding Msgr. Bordelon, who now heads the World Justice of Peace.

Dr. O'Loughlin reported that the Board of Directors met in June in San Francisco and again on November 30 in Miami Beach. The June meeting was in conjunction with the Gerald Kelly Lecture which was given by Dr. J. Englebert Dunphy, and it was a great success, as was the subsequent A.M.A. panel discussion on the morality of transplantation. Dr. Vincent Collins, a Chicago Guild member, was an outstanding member of the panel.

Dr. O'Loughlin asked for prayers for all deceased Guild members. He reported that the Los Angeles Guild lost its only black member with the recent death of Dr. Ray Peyton. He asked for positive Guild action on recruiting more black members and, in a related field, recruiting and assisting more black medical students.

Dr. O'Loughlin said the N.F.C.P.G. officers had spent the year discussing the aims and goals of the Federation, and he said he hoped that a special

committee, having a wide geographic and philosophic distribution, would be appointed to restudy the reasons for existence of the Guilds and the Federation.

Dr. O'Loughlin said that the coming year should be one in which we respect Pope Paul's attitude that theologians and scientists must have reasonable freedom for research and development. He said this approach can help us over last years rough spots and clear the way for a constructive new year.

MODERATOR'S REPORT: Father MacKinnon said that there is a good possibility that there will be approval of a votive Mass for physicians and paramedical personnel in the near future.

He said he feels that the Federation does exist, and that the time has come to stop questioning its existence, but to get on with the clarification and amplification of its goals and services. He said the Guilds exist as a potentially strong, competent, directive voice of the Church in this country. He said doctors should no longer be running as a group to stop things, but should be in the forefront of things directing them.

Father MacKinnon suggested that in the administrative wing of the Church there should be a lay man directing lay

activity, and who would be a liaison with the Bishops.

He also suggested that the name of "moderator" of the N.F.C.P.G. be changed to "spiritual advisor".

REPORT OF THE EDITOR: Dr. William Egan reported that 1968 was a year of transition for the Linacre Quarterly with the move of the publication from St. Louis to Milwaukee. He reported that the change has been smooth and efficient, and the cost of production is less expensive.

He said the candidates for the 1968 Linacre Quarterly have been listed and the Guilds will vote on them. The award will be presented in July in New York.

He said the February issue will include Archbishop O'Boyle's catechetical question and answer reflection on *humanae vitae*. The May issue will be edited by Dr. James Masterson and will be produced by the Virginia and Washington, D. C. Guilds. Dr. Egan asked for other Guilds to volunteer to edit future issues. He also reported that letters to the editor have diminished and wondered if we are not sufficiently provocative.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

The financial statement for the 1968 fiscal year was presented. It was pointed out that several Guilds under the old billing system were delinquent. It was not the intent of the Federation to provide direct billing for every Guild whether they wanted it or not, but only to provide it as a voluntary service. Dr. Masterson reported that the increase in dues for 1968 would make available expenses for delegates to attend the annual meeting, and the

large attendance at this meeting was a reflection on the success of the change in dues structure. He reported that a special endowment committee had recommended that no assets or stocks be sold at this time unless there is an urgent need for cash.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

REPORT: Dr. John Brennan said that the National Commission on Human Life Reproduction and Rhythm, in which his committee is actively involved, presented a program on Abortion in Chicago in August, which was attended by representatives from throughout the Midwest. The purpose of this meeting, and others they hope to sponsor, is to provide information for Catholics and other denominations, in their fight in the various states against the easing of abortion laws.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE OF RELIGIOUS:

Dr. J. T. Nix reported that his is a joint committee on health care of the religious of the Catholic Hospital Association and the N.F.C.P.G. He said it is vital that there be further communication between the Catholic organizations interested in providing care for the religious. He said a new manual for health care of male religious has been compiled by Doctors Fecher, Holovbek and Nix. He said the American Cancer Society has renewed for another year a grant for research on the causes of death of religious women and a summary of the research will appear in the magazine "Cancer".

GERALD KELLY LECTURE COMMITTEE:

Dr. John Malone reported that the summer meeting of the N.F.C.P.G., which includes a memorial Mass, a Board of Directors meeting, and the Gerald Kelly lecture-

dinner, will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City on July 13, during the annual meeting of the A.M.A. The speaker at the Gerald Kelly lecture, and the recipient of the Linacre Award, will be announced at a later date.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dr. Rosalie Reardon Albers reported that the N.F.C.P.G. will host the meeting of the International Association of Catholic Medical Associations in Washington, D. C. on October 11 to the 14, 1970. A committee has been formed to plan the meeting which will be attended by delegates from all the countries of the world. The most important function of the committee is to solicit funds to finance this undertaking.

Dr. James Ferrugia of Malta, the Secretary of the International Federation, then spoke to the group on the background and aims of the International Association.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers: Dr. Gino Papola, President-Elect; Dr. Rosalie Reardon Albers, Vice President; Dr. James Masterson, Secretary; Dr. Charles Pfister, Treasurer. There being no nominations from the floor, there was a unanimous vote cast for the slate of officers as presented. Dr. John Malone was installed as President by the moderator, Father MacKinnon.

NEW BUSINESS: The delegates approved a motion authorizing the President to appoint a committee at large to study the needs, answers and purposes of the Catholic Physicians' Guild individually and collectively.

The results of this committee's study are to be reported and acted upon at the 1969 annual meeting.

The delegates then approved unanimously Resolution No. 1 opposing the legalizing of abortion. The complete text of the Resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, life is a gift bestowed by the Creator and is always subject to His Dominion and Will; and

WHEREAS, the profession of medicine has always revered life and has always been dedicated to its preservation and protection; and

WHEREAS, medical science clearly establishes that the human life, which is born, is the same human life which was conceived and which develops and matures genetically independent during the period of gestation; and

WHEREAS, no distinction can be made between born life and unborn life as to preference and rights; and

WHEREAS, the civil law recognizes that the human fetus, endowed as it is with human life, has inalienable rights among which is the basic right to be allowed to live, to develop and to be born; and

WHEREAS, the rights of a living person can never be achieved by directly depriving the innocent unborn of its right to life; and

WHEREAS, induced abortion is the direct and intended extinguishing of the life of the innocent unborn in violation of the equal protection of the law and without due process; and

WHEREAS, the physician, by favoring the relaxation of the current laws, prohibiting abortion, would be unfaithful to his sacred trust to protect and reverence life;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, at the annual meeting at Miami Beach on December 1, 1968, goes on record as being unalterably opposed to the legalizing of abortion for personal, medical, eugenic, social, psychiatric or humanitarian reasons.

The delegates then discussed at length a resolution concerning the Pope's encyclicals. Resolution No. 2 was passed with only one dissenting vote:

WHEREAS, individual members of this federation, as Christian physicians, are aware of the pressing issues which are affecting the thought and action of individuals and of humanity; and

WHEREAS, some of these issues involve human sexuality which should be considered in its totality, and the complete fruition of which is a desired goal for the benefit of all mankind; and

WHEREAS, Christ gave us the example of love and charity we should endeavor to understand those who propose a variety of solutions, seemingly in conflict with traditional concepts; and

WHEREAS, physicians in order to better fulfill their role, to improve the physician-patient relationship, and to form a right conscience of their own, should keep informed on matters which involve human life; and

WHEREAS, physicians are not necessarily authorities in moral matters and so should turn to authentic teachers for guidance; and

WHEREAS, Pope Paul VI, by virtue of his position as a direct successor of Peter, is the preeminent teacher among Christ's shepherds and has presented principles relating to faith and morals; and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, at its annual meeting in Miami Beach on December 1, 1968, acknowledge and supports the teaching authority of the Pope and Bishops, and urges its member guilds to establish programs in depth of all related encyclicals and other sources of knowledge and understanding in order to increase insight into anti-life attitudes prevalent in our culture today, and to comprehend better those elements that make possible a more scientific, and human solution to problems of society, family and life.

Dr. John Malone announced that the annual 1969 meeting of the N.F.C.P.G. would be held on November 29-30, at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado. The meeting will immediately precede the annual clinical meeting of the A.M.A. which also will be held in Denver.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Reardon Albers, M.D.
Secretary