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## Moderator's Message ...

Marvin Bordelon

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## **Moderator's Message . . .**

*Regularly, on this page, Monsignor Marvin Bordelon, the Moderator of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, has contributed a message of importance to the members of the federation. Reluctantly, the Board of Directors of the federation has accepted Monsignor Bordelon's wish not to be re-appointed as moderator because of the press of other duties. The reasons for Monsignor Bordelon's decision are outlined in the following letter which he addressed to the President:*

Dear Dr. O'Loughlin:

My two years as moderator of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds are now expiring. According to the bylaws I think I'm eligible for nomination to a second two year term.

Normally I would look forward much to this type of expression of confidence on the part of the physicians. But I find myself in vastly different circumstances from when I accepted the nomination two years ago. At that time I was a pastor in Shreveport, Louisiana, and could, relatively speaking, plan my schedule for the year without too many conflicts.

Ten months ago, however, I accepted the invitation of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to launch the work of a new Secretariat for World Justice and Peace. I resigned St. Joseph's parish in Shreveport then and have moved to Washington to launch this new work. I find myself spending more than half my time on the road, and when at home in Washington very burdened with organizational chores as well as thinking through and launching this apostolate. This has caused me to be quite remiss in my duty as national moderator; to wit, missing the meeting of Atlantic City in June because of a conflict with another meeting of Bishops here in Washington; missing the meeting in Los Angeles in November because of having to attend a meeting of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace in Rome.

As I look at my schedule for 1968, I find that I am already in conflict through a prior commitment for the meeting in San Francisco. So it goes.

I think there is no other course for me to follow than to thank you all for being so patient with me during these last several months, and ask that I not be nominated for a second two year period. I feel sure that there are a number of candidates from moderators of local guilds who could qualify well and serve much more faithfully than I have been able to do during the past several months.

It has been quite beneficial to me personally to be associated with the Guilds for more than a decade, as moderator of the local guild in Shreveport and more recently as national moderator. I am deeply indebted to you all. Please remember me too in this new work. And God be with you always.

Sincerely,  
(Msgr.) Marvin Bordelon