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The President's Page

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President's Page . . .

On December 1, 1967 the winter meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Physician's Guild was held at Disneyland, Orange County, California, U.S.A. The handful of Doctors attending were treated to an outstanding program on the Apostolate of the Physician. Some of the papers presented will be published in the LINACRE QUARTERLY. Publication cannot reproduce the pixieish wisdom and good humor of AMA President Milford Rouse; the dispatching of scientific attitudes of Dennis Landis, founder of the National Association of Laymen, or the confident knowledgeable ability of Martin Work or Doctor John Cavanagh. The weather was perfect, each speaker was better than the preceding, and I'm very sorry that you missed it.

It was five years ago in Chicago that the Board of Directors decided to have substance of winter meetings with a definite program directed to matters of concern to Catholic doctors instead of following the AMA meeting about the country as had been done previously. It has become apparent that Catholic doctors will not travel any distance to attend National Guild Meetings—program or not. We will, therefore, return to the camp-follower technique. The next winter meeting will be at Miami Beach just prior to the AMA meeting.

A plethora of matters demand our attention: Social changes, scientific changes, surgical changes, and governmental changes affect our established ideas. How should we respond? We can no longer remain uninvolved. I am involved. My way is that of medical education. I hope that interest can be aroused in the education of Catholic doctors. What is education's contribution to his attitudes and responses or lack of same?

Earlier and more able presidents focused our attention on South American problems, birth control, organization, the aged, the adolescent, and etc. Please continue these interests. Please continue furthering the advancement of the philosophy and ethics of medical practice. But let's investigate it too. I cannot close my initial page without telling you of the feeling of responsibility and the understanding which I have already learned of the frustrated feeling of previous presidents. Please, God, with the support and help of each, it will be a fruitful year in His vineyard for the lately hired amateur. Thank you for your anticipated assistance.

Bernard J. O'Loughlin, M.D.