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The President's Page

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President's Page



Dr. James H. Masterson

I have delayed writing this present page in hopes that we could bring to the membership some of the more important points which were discussed at our Board of Directors Meeting and I am now happy that we followed this plan. The main problem which arose at the meeting was the concern with the ethical directives for Catholic Hospitals on which our Ad Hoc Committee had worked. Contrary to our understanding, it was not brought before the Bishops for their approval at their spring meeting and it is now our understanding that this will be done in November. However, we were able to ascertain from Monsignor Harold Murray that the directives as they are written are currently in use in some Dioceses at the option of the local Bishop. The Board of Directors authorized the Ad Hoc Committee to continue to function with Dr. John Cavanagh as its Chairman, and Dr. Vitale Paganelli and Dr. John Brennan as members, to pursue an in-depth study and make pertinent recommendations, as we feel again that medicine has not been consulted and from the tenor of the meeting, it would appear that there is not even a desire to get a well rounded medical opinion.

We hope in the months to come to make the position of medicine so clear and lucid that we will have to be listened to and perhaps incorporated in the new directives.

There is very little new to add regarding the status of the various Guilds, but feel there is room for improvement in all areas. Our membership has been steady over the last four years and we do have a hard core of dedicated people. We would like to enlist the aid of other non-participants as we feel there is a need for our organization and I should add that the necessity for it was again brought up at our Board of Directors meeting and it was the general feeling that until an ongoing organization is formed which could take the place of the National Federation, it should continue to function in as efficient manner as possible.

We are all looking forward to the meeting in New Orleans right after Thanksgiving, with the general topic, again, being the drug problem which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, was the most pressing at the moment.

James H. Masterson, M.D.
President