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President's Message

Charles A. Bauda

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .



Charles A. Bauda, M.D.

As I reflect and try to assess the events which transpired during my Presidency, the perennial question of "Why a National Federation of Catholic Physicians?" seems to come into sharper focus. At our 1972 National Meeting in Cincinnati I addressed myself to this matter at great length. I wish to reiterate the more salient points with renewed emphasis.

In a synthesis of thought of two renowned theologians concerned about the future of medical ethics (Bernhard Haring, a Catholic and Rev. Charles Carroll, a Protestant) I stated,

"The progress of medical science and practice has contributed greatly to the profound changes in the condition of human life today. In the near future medicine will have ever greater responsibility for man's meaning as well as man's total well being" (Haring)

With this responsibility will come tremendous powers which, if misdirected, could destroy the ethical framework within which medicine has set its goals. It would become "medicine without ethic". (Carroll)

In light of this expressed concern, we as physicians must promote the Catholic ethic in the practice of medicine and we must explore every avenue possible to extend the area of our influence.

We, the Catholic physicians of America are eager to become involved in medical moral problems and lend our scientific knowledge to the theological knowledge of the hierarchy.

The viability of this Federation depends on the recognition and acceptance by the hierarchy of the physician's role as a member of the lay apostolate with expertise in the medical disciplines and a dedication to exercise them in a Catholic ethic.

The primary purpose of the Federation's existence is dependent upon this mutual assistance, the ultimate aim of which is the support of the magisterial teaching of the Church.)

ethics rather than to conform to the casuistic morality "legislated" by the Supreme Court; and finally with our active participation in these efforts we achieved recognition and acceptance by the hierarchy in our role as members of the lay apostolate.

In conclusion I wish to take this opportunity to extend my grateful thanks to Bishop Lohmuller, our Episcopal Advisor, Father Scherer, our Moderator, Bob Herzog, our Executive Secretary and to all my fellow officers and members of the Board of Directors for their cooperation and dedication to the service of the Federation.

Finally, I wish to reiterate my sincere thanks for the many heartening communications which I have received as President.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,
Charles A. Bauda, M.D.

**1973
ANNUAL MEETING
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS**

**QUALITY INN
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 1-2, 1973**

**In conjunction with the Annual Clinical Meeting
of the
American Medical Association**