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President's Page: License to Be Rarent?

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National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds
1979 Annual Meeting
PRE-REGISTRATION

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________
CITY ___________________ STATE _______ ZIP ____________

PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR THE 1979 ANNUAL MEETING:

$_______ ADVANCE REGISTRATION fee for all persons (EXCEPT MEDICAL AND DENTAL students) at $125. This includes admission to all sessions, dinners on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, luncheons on Thursday and Friday, guided tour of Niagara Falls, and bus transportation as required.

$_______ SPOUSE REGISTRATION of $45. This includes all of the meals and functions above, the guided tour of Niagara Falls, and a special historic tour of the Buffalo area for spouses.

$_______ TOTAL (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO NFCPG AND RETURN WITH THIS RESERVATION FORM).

(MEDICAL AND DENTAL STUDENTS will be admitted without charge to all Scientific Sessions. Tickets to the Luncheons and Dinner may be purchased at the door.)

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION

The NFCPG has reserved a block of rooms at the Buffalo Statler-Hilton Hotel. Requests received after August 26 will be on an available basis only. If you wish accommodations at a hotel other than the Statler-Hilton, please contact those hotels directly.

ARRIVAL: Date: ___________ Time: ___________ [ ] a.m. [ ] p.m.

DEPARTURE: Date: ___________ Time: ___________ [ ] a.m. [ ] p.m.

PLEASE RESERVE A: SINGLE at $25 $27 $29 $31 $33
DOUBLE at $33 $35 $37 $39 $41
TWIN at $33 $35 $37 $39 $41
ONE BEDROOM SUITE at $85 $100
TWO BEDROOM SUITE at $120

(Rates are determined by size and location. If a room at the rate requested is unavailable, one at the nearest available rate will be reserved.)

RETURN THIS ENTIRE RESERVATION FORM WITH YOUR REGISTRATION CHECK TO:

National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds
862 Elm Grove Road
Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122
(Make check payable to NFCPG.)

President’s Page

License to Be Parent?

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio (UPI) — If you and your spouse have IQs above 80, earn more than $8,000 a year, have no serious emotional problems and know how to care for children, you would receive a license from the government to have a baby.

If you failed one of the requirements, you and your mate would not be allowed to become parents.

Extreme perhaps, but educational psychologist Jerry Bergman at Bowling Green State University says, "We have to at least look at the idea."

Dr. Bergman, father of two, has reservations about the idea. But he said the problems of energy and food supplies make it necessary for governments to look at proposals.

"License to be parent?" This question caught my eye as I skimmed over the "People in the News" section of a recent issue of the Buffalo Evening News.

“License to Be Parent?” A frightening concept which, if repeated often enough, may become acceptable to many! For me this notion truly tolls the death knell for human freedom, human dignity.

As long ago as 1964, the concept of licensed parenthood was espoused from the podium of an International Conference on Population Control. The recommendation made was to "treat" the public drinking water with the oral contraceptive. This would render the
entire population infertile, for even the male after ingesting "the pill" for 14 consecutive days is rendered infertile through suppression of spermatogenesis. Science fiction? Hardly — for an Indian physician present at that conference, did in fact "treat" the drinking water in his native village with the pill.

Untreated drinking water according to this proposal would be made available to aspiring parents only after a license to be parents was approved. Who would decide? Not clergy or physician but government. After all government will feed, clothe, house, educate, medicate, bury.

When consulted for advice regarding population control, a Nobel Prize winner in physics recommended that a silicone pellet be impregnated with estrogen-progestagen. This slow release pellet, with a potential activity of 20 years, should then be implanted sub-cutaneously in all females before they reached biologic maturity. Under penalty of law, these pellets would be removed only after a license for parenthood were granted. The grantor? Government. Field trials with such a pellet implant are currently in progress in Mexico.

Several years ago, OB-GYN News quoted a noted obstetrician teacher as recommending that scholastic achievement be used as a guideline for granting permission to reproduce. Criteria for qualified parenthood could be based on scholastic achievement.

Elementary school graduates . . . No
High school graduates . . . . Maybe
College graduates . . . . . Some of them

The spectre of government control of the practice of medicine looms more ominous day by day.

The threat of government control of the "License to Be Parent" is far more ominous.

May it rest in peace!

— Joseph J. Ricotta, M.D.

Message from the Spiritual Advisor

A beautiful mark of distinction between the Catholic physician and physicians in general is the former's devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. St. Luke, the evangelist and physician, was among the first writers during the time of Christ to record in the sacred scriptures the events of salvation history concerning the Virgin-Mother.

Since that time, there is hardly a hamlet in the world which does not have a church named in her honor as well as a large number of children called by her name. Mary's loyalty, obedience and love of God are constantly presented as a model for all of mankind to follow. Her life of prayer and dedication pleased the Lord as she lived her special vocation in faith.

The Catholic physician who is sensitive towards life is appreciative of the woman who offers the habitat of her very being for the continuation of life and of her closeness to the Divinity. In being concerned with her labor and delivery, her illness and recovery, he recognizes a specialness in her person. She certainly has an outstanding dignity as God Himself chose woman as a means for His only Son's entry into this world.

Modern mothers seem to have renewed their consciousness of "bonding," that is, that intimate relationship they have with their children, often developed in a mystical way through nursing, affection and looking lovingly face to face at their own offspring. This "oneness" known as the way of life by Mary with her Son, Jesus, can be imitated by the physician as well through touching, healing, praying and sharing face to face with his patients in pain, thus transmitting solace, comfort and strength.

Jesus said "not by bread alone does man live, but by every WORD that comes forth from the mouth of God." It is the WORD which