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## President's Page: A Personal History

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## President's Page



### *A Personal History*

*"Lord, I put my trust in you; I shall be glad and rejoice  
in Your mercy, because You have seen my affliction."*

*— Psalm 30:7-8*

With these words, I accept God's will to be your president. Little did I realize how the events of my first NFCPG meeting Nov. 29–Dec. 1, 1974 in Portland, Oregon, would influence my future. Speaking at that meeting were Victor Rosenblum, professor of law and political science, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois and Drs. Herb Ratner, Hanna Klaus, John Brennan and Eugene Diamond. It was there that I also met Dr. Ed Kilroy, my former chief resident in general surgery, whose enthusiasm was infectious in maintaining my interest in the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

The talk given by Professor Rosenblum focused on the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* through the courts, and this was reiterated 10 years later on March 31, 1984 at the highly successful meeting sponsored by the AUL in Chicago. At the luncheon address of the 1974 meeting, Dr. Ratner provided an in-depth insight into Dr. Leo Alexander's classic paper, "Medical Science Under Dictatorship." Upon my return home, a copy of this article was given to my pastor, Rev. Edwin Duffy, who

had it retyped and sent to almost every physician in Honolulu. Hanna Klaus spoke on natural family planning at the meeting and subsequently gave a series of talks on this subject in Honolulu. John Brennan, the president at that time, came to Honolulu, along with Mrs. Mercedes Wilson, to conduct a workshop on natural family planning. My fellow pediatrician, Eugene Diamond, expressed his concern and later reported his findings in the February, 1976 issue of the *Linacre Quarterly*: "Do The Medical Schools Discriminate Against Anti-Abortion Applicants?" Throughout the years, he has encouraged my activity in the pro-life movement and has provided timely information on the care of the handicapped infant and also sex education in our Catholic schools. His role in the American Association of Pro-Life Pediatricians and World Federation of Doctors Who Respect Human Life is an inspiring model for physicians to follow.

Indeed, my involvement with the Guild has been fruitful. It is keeping me abreast of the many moral and ethical dilemmas which arise with advanced medical technology. In addition, I continue to thoroughly enjoy the association of my fellow Catholic physician friends, and sincerely hope that you, too, will find the NFCPG informative, as well as a source of inspiration in the practice of medicine.

On a more personal note — I was raised in a Buddhist atmosphere the first 12 years of my life and my parents still attend Sunday Buddhist Service, Nichiren, but, by God's design, I became a convert to Catholicism at the age of 15. I am privileged that this Japanese physician, born on the island of Molokai, where Father Damien labored, is now the president of this distinguished organization.

Thank you for your confidence in me and with our Lord Jesus Christ, Mary, His mother, and your prayers and "kokua" (help), I intend to fulfill the duties as your president to the best of my ability.

"Aloha."

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Herbert M. Nakata, M.D.