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Recognition Given at NFCPG Philadelphia Meeting

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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IN MEMORIAM

William J. Egan, M.D., my predecessor as editor of Linacre Quarterly, died of cancer at his home in Milton, Massachusetts, on Aug. 30, 1984. Fortunately, he suffered little pain during his illness.

Doctor Egan was a well-known surgeon in the Boston area for 45 years and was very familiar to members of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, having served as its president from June, 1957 to June, 1959. When the Jesuits decided to relinquish responsibility for editing Linacre Quarterly in August, 1964, Doctor Egan was appointed editor by the NFCPG's board. He took over the editorship at a critical period. Vatican II, theological dissent and Humanae Vitae were events of his tenure and Doctor Egan kept Linacre on course during these stormy years. His editorials, his uniform kindness and his sterling leadership were an inspiration to us all.

He initiated a grassroots program throughout the country, having each city be responsible for one issue of Linacre Quarterly. By using this approach, he engendered enthusiasm and fine writing for our journal. It was with regret that he resigned as editor upon the sudden death of his wife in 1969, but he left behind a visible periodical with an enlarged circulation.

As mentioned in his obituary in the Boston Globe, Doctor Egan was graduated from Boston College in 1932 and from the Harvard Medical School in 1936. He was a fellow of the International College of Surgeons, a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and a visiting surgeon at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton, Carney Hospital in Dorchester and Milton Hospital. He was also a co-founder of Bethaney Hospital in Framingham and the first president of its medical staff.

Doctor Egan's low voice, professorial manner and bow tie trademark made him easily recognizable in hospitals throughout the region. He gained further recognition many years ago when he, a widower with eleven children, married Alice Ployer-Morris, a widow with nine children. The couple bought a large, three-story home for their combined family of 20 youngsters.

In addition to his wife, Doctor Egan is survived by seven sons, four daughters, two stepsons, seven stepdaughters and 46 grandchildren.

— John P. Mullooly, M.D.

Recognition Given at NFCPG Philadelphia Meeting

Rev. John F. Harvey, O.S.F.S.
Rev. John R. Connery, S.J.

Linacre Quarterly Award
Presented by John P. Mullooly, M.D.
to Rev. John F. Harvey, O.S.F.S.

The Linacre Quarterly award was established a number of years ago to honor the writer of what was considered by the judges to be the best article in Linacre during the preceding year.

This year, the criteria for the award were "rearranged" a bit, to give recognition to a person not only for a single article in a single year, but also for numerous fine contributions for many years — since 1969, in fact.

Father John Harvey, O.S.F.S., received a bachelor of arts and master of arts degree, plus a licentiate and a doctorate in sacred theology, all from the Catholic University of America. For 25 years, he was an associate professor at Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross. He is presently a professor of moral theology at De Sales Hall School.
of Theology and Cluster of Independent Theological Schools in Washington, D.C. He directs a group called Courage for the Archdiocese of New York—a discussion group for persons with homosexual tendencies. Since 1978, he has been president of Renewal, Rest and Recreation, a retreat movement for clerics and brothers who are troubled with homosexual tendencies.

In addition, Father Harvey has had numerous articles and book reviews published in scholarly journals since 1949. Among these journals are Theological Studies, Homiletic and Pastoral Review, New Catholic Encyclopedia, Our Sunday Visitor, and National Catholic Reporter, to name only a few. He is being recognized for the following contributions to Linacre Quarterly: May, 1969, “Female Homosexuality”; August, 1971, “Pastoral Directives for the Confessor in Relation to Homosexuality”; August, 1972, “Integration of Spiritual and Psychological Values in Therapy”; August, 1974, “The Controversy Concerning Nomenclature Vis-a-vis Homosexuality”; August, 1975, “Euthanasia: Commentary on a Social Movement”; August, 1976, “A Critique of John McNeil, S.J. and Gregory Baum, O.S.A. on the Subject of Homosexuality”; May, 1979, “Reflections on a Retreat for Clerics with Homosexual Tendencies” and the following book reviews, some of which were of extended length: Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality: Gay People in Western Europe from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Fourteenth Century, August, 1981; Psycho­genesis: The Early Development of Gender Identity, May, 1984; and Elizabeth Moberly’s other book which follows that, Homosexuality: A New Christian Ethic. (The latter review appears in this issue on page 341.)

Obviously, Father Harvey is a man of vast theological knowledge, who exhibits not only great expertise as a writer, but also true compassion. The works cited speak for his excellence far better than any words of mine. I take great pleasure in presenting the Linacre Quarterly award, on behalf of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds, to Father John Harvey.

Gerald Kelly Award
Presented by John P. Mullooly, M.D.
to Rev. John R. Connery, S.J.

The Gerald Kelly award is not presented on a regular basis. Rather, it is a special award, given under special circumstances to a theologian of renown, for excellent achievement and meritorious service.

Father John Connery’s credits are numerous and outstanding. He served as professor of moral theology at West Baden College (later known as Bellarmine School of Theology, then Jesuit School of Theology) from 1948-60 and again from 1967-76. In between, from 1960-67, he was provincial superior of the Chicago province of the Society of Jesus. He is now professor emeritus at Loyola University in Chicago, where he was professor of theology from 1976-84 and held the Cody Chair of Theology during 1982.

Father Connery has been a corresponding editor of America and a member of the advisory board of Linacre Quarterly and Hospital Progress. He has been senior research scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Bioethics, at Georgetown University, a visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and is a permanent consultant for the Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, and the Bishops’ Committee on Pastoral Research and Practice. A prolific writer, Father Connery holds membership in a number of theologically-oriented organizations.

He has given unstintingly of his time, when requested to do so, to critiquing manuscripts submitted to Linacre Quarterly—manuscripts which needed additional assessment by someone with his expertise.

To this “giant” in the theological arena, Father John R. Connery, S.J., it is my pleasure to present the Gerald Kelly award for 1984.

Board of Directors’
Distinguished Service Award
presented to
Doctors John and Evelyn Billings

The Board of Directors of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds has seen fit to recognize the contributions of Doctors John and Lyn Billings in their research on natural family planning, particularly what has come to be known as the Billings Ovulation Method.

For 25 years, Dr. John Billings has participated in research in the development of natural family planning, particularly into its application in the developing countries. He has visited and helped establish teaching centers for NFP in many countries of the Third World. In 1966, Dr. Lyn Billings joined her husband in his research on the Billings Ovulation Method, and her studies on breastfeeding mothers and women approaching menopause have been a significant contribution. The couple, parents of nine children, have published numerous

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articles in scientific journals and are co-authors of the *Atlas of the Ovulation Method*. They travel widely each year, teaching and lecturing on the Billings Method.

Both were graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne, he in 1941, she in 1942. Dr. Lyn subsequently took the Diploma of Child Health in London and was senior demonstrator in histology and embryology in the department of anatomy at the university. She was assistant physician at the family planning clinic in the department of community medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, where her husband was head of the department of neurology. He also served as dean of the clinical school and associate dean (clinical) in the faculty of medicine of the University of Melbourne. He was physician to the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and consultant neurologist to the Cancer Institute. Dr. John is president of the World Organization of the Ovulation Method (Billings).

For their tireless dedication to Christian principles of natural family planning and their selflessness in giving of their time and talents to that cause for many years, the Board of Directors is proud to recognize the achievements of John and Lyn Billings.

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I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

Through dedication, hard work and selfless devotion to those in need, medical professionals have saved countless lives and promoted the health of our citizens. By practicing medicine according to the Hippocratic values, they have also advanced the cause of human dignity.

Today, however, many are suggesting that these values need no longer be heeded. Many doctors perform abortions in direct contravention of the Hippocratic Oath, while others maintain that it is morally right to withhold food and necessary medical care from infants merely because they are handicapped.

By calling your colleagues to practice medicine in accordance with the Hippocratic standards, you are performing a great service to your profession and to our people.

May God bless you as you go about your vitally important work.

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This letter was sent prior to the NFCPG convention, held Oct. 18-21 in Philadelphia.