

February 2005

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### Recommended Citation

Mullooly, John P. (2005) "My Final Editorial," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 72 : No. 1 , Article 2.  
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol72/iss1/2>



## **My Final Editorial**

**John P. Mullooly, M.D.  
Editor Emeritus**

My time as editor has carried me over rich historical terrain fraught with ideological battles. Thirty-five years ago in September 1969, when I became editor of the *Linacre Quarterly*, our guild of Catholic physicians was unknowingly on the edge of a great precipice which was to divide us as a group, creating a chasm which even now we are continuing to bridge. Then we were a close-knit group, each holding to the same known and well-taught moral code, profoundly appreciative and deeply aware of the eternal and temporal demands made upon us as Catholic physicians. We met monthly for our guild meetings and there our own personal spirituality could be addressed. Concern for the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, or as Emily Dickinson puts it, “how to entertain the guest within,” was a question uppermost in our minds.

When *Humanae Vitae* was issued in 1968, it tore our unanimity of spirit asunder. We became a fractured membership, in some cases families in the same practice being divided brother against brother, father against son. At times the division ended a family practice a father or grandfather had started. Now, thirty-five years later, as I come to the end of my tenure as editor, I ask: Have we grown any deeper in the Holy Spirit? Do we have a greater sense of justice? Do we have a greater love for our patients and colleagues and families? In other words, has this great ideological division brought us to a deeper level of being human? Are we any closer to being Christ in our practice with our patients, in our office with our colleagues, in our homes with our families?

These questions, because they are foremost in our lives as men and women of and for Christ, I leave with the next generation of my beloved colleagues to ponder. I highly admire the great unity that all of us have preserved in our enduring commitment to explicate the magisterial teachings of the Church on these difficult modern moral questions. Looking back over thirty-five years, I believe the single most important purpose of the *Linacre Quarterly* has been that through this chaotic moral terrain the magisterial teaching of the Church – our Holy Father’s vision – will at all times be preserved and taught. The *Linacre Quarterly* has been the voice of wisdom and tradition.

As we strive to share the profound riches of our Catholic moral past and the continued high level of scholarship of our Catholic moral present, we must remain faithful to the magisterium. As I totter off the editorial stage, my prayer for all of us as Catholic physicians is that we may be worthy servants at the great table of our Holy Mother Church, the storehouse of wisdom and truth.

**Your Brother in Christ,**

**John P. Mullooly, M.D.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
All Soul’s Day, 2004**