

February 1956

## Executive Board: Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds: Winter Meeting

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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## *Executive Board Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds Winter Meeting*

The December meeting of the Executive Board of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was held in Boston, Massachusetts, December 3 and 4, 1955, at Hotel Statler. The following were present:

M. F. Yeip, M.D., President, also Cleveland Guild  
W. J. Egan, M.D., First Vice-President, also Boston Guild  
E. J. Murphy, M.D., Third Vice-President, also Bronx Guild  
N. F. Thiberge, M.D., Honorary President, also New Orleans Guild  
J. J. Graff, M.D., Secretary, also Wilmington Guild  
Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. A. McGowan, Moderator  
Rev. M. P. Walsh, S.J., Boston Guild  
J. J. Toland, Jr., M.D., Philadelphia Guild  
F. J. D'Errico, M.D., Fall River Guild  
Very Rev. Msgr. F. W. Carney, Cleveland Guild  
J. G. Muccigrosso, M.D., Westchester Guild  
D. A. Mulvihill, M.D., New York Guild  
Rev. J. J. Flanagan, S.J., Editor, THE LINACRE QUARTERLY  
Rev. J. J. Lynch, S.J., Weston College, Weston, Mass.  
M. R. Kneiff, Executive Secretary  
Jean Read, Assistant Secretary

\* \* \*  
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

After roll call, the President requested vote on the minutes of the June 8, 1955 meeting of the Executive Board, Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, held in Atlan-

tic City, at Hotel Dennis—unanimously approved.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his report, the President indicated that a statement in the name of the Federation refuting remarks of gynecologists at the A.M.A. meeting in June regarding artificial insemination was given to the newspapers stating the Catholic viewpoint on the subject. (The full statement appeared in the minutes of the June 1955 meeting.) He asserted further that a census of all Catholic doctors in the dioceses of affiliated Guilds had been requested. A few Guilds have responded, namely: Dubuque, Iowa; Knoxville, Tennessee; Saginaw, Michigan; Sioux City, Iowa; Cleveland, Ohio; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The "White Mass" to honor St. Luke was reviewed. Reports were given by Guild representatives and the central office.

Annual reports of Guild activities are requested to be sent to the central office for permanent record and after review by a committee to be included in future issues of the Federation bulletins. It was recommended that such reports might also be given to the Ordinary of the Diocese of each Guild, by personal visit of the

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President and/or other officers of the Guild.

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

The moderator also commented on St. Luke's Day celebrations and the success achieved in each locality where the "White Mass" was observed.

Progress toward the establishment of a Catholic Physicians' Guild in Chicago was reported.

A third topic was the announcement of the International Congress of Catholic Doctors to be held in the Netherlands in September 1956. The theme of the Program is "Civil and Moral Law." Msgr. McGowan was authorized to represent the Federation at this Congress.

The locale of the 1958 International Congress was discussed. Further consideration of this subject was deferred until the June 1956 Executive Board meeting.

It was reported that Mother Anna Dengel, M.D., foundress of the Medical Mission Sisters, completed thirty years of service to the sick in the missions; the Board voted honorary membership in the Federation to Mother Dengel as a fitting recognition of her labors. A scroll to commemorate the occasion was presented to her in the name of the Federation.

### LINACRE QUARTERLY

The circulation report indicated the mailing of 7,199 copies of the November 1955 issue. Some 3,650 copies were mailed to members of Guilds; currently there are 300 student subscriptions; and the balance of the subscribers include doctors not members of guilds, priests, hospitals, libraries and others.

The Editor again emphasized need for articles. Topics discussed for writing included: "Medical Education", "Vivisection", "Animal Experimentation", "Segregation", "The Doctor's Obligation to his Community — Civic, Social and Political."

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It was reported that there are 52 Catholic Physicians' Guilds affiliated with the Federation; seven having been added since June 1955. Affiliation for eleven Guilds is pending.

Promotion of additional Guilds was discussed. It was recommended that existing Guilds devote time to helping other groups organize. The President of the Westchester Guild read a letter he had sent to physicians in that area of New York to interest them in membership. Exemplifying most effectively the aims of a Guild, this letter might be used as a model for other groups. The assistance of Catholic hospitals should be sought; chaplains would be valuable contacts. The aid of Bishops' Representatives for hospitals would also be most helpful. It was recommended that each Guild sponsor at least one new Guild during the year.

### FINANCING EDUCATION FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

It is known that there are Catholic students who would be worthy

candidates for medical school but who are not able to finance their education. This was thought to be a project to be recommended to Guilds. Two groups reported giving such assistance at present.

#### PHARMACISTS' GUILDS

These organizations are forming in various sections of the country. It was recommended to encourage pharmacists to join Guilds with the same objectives as the physicians' groups. Local Physicians' Guilds would be in excellent position to offer advice.

#### SITUATIONS IN CATHOLIC HOSPITALS

At the June 1955 meeting of the Executive Board it was suggested that a survey be made to determine situations that might be available in Catholic hospitals to relieve crowded areas of the country. The needs of member institutions of The Catholic Hospital Association in the states of Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kansas were to be enumerated in a questionnaire sent out from the central office.

A representative return was received and the results are to be published in *LINACRE QUARTERLY*. It was recommended that Guilds send information to the Federation office regarding staff vacancies in the hospitals their members serve in order to afford information to newly licensed doctors or to those wishing to move to other areas.

#### JUNE MEETING, FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

An Executive Committee meeting of the Federation will be held

at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, 1956, in Chicago, Illinois. This will be in preparation for the annual meeting of the entire Executive Board meeting scheduled for the morning of June 13.

The luncheon regularly scheduled for Catholic doctors attending the American Medical Association Convention will follow the Board meeting.

#### "GUILDS IN FOCUS" BULLETIN

It was recommended to continue publishing the bulletin "Guilds in Focus" as a medium to advise member Guilds of activities. For this, the Editor pointed out it is necessary to receive news periodically from each group if the service is to develop.

#### RESEARCH PROJECTS

It was reported that the Catholic Hospital Association will sponsor a Conference on Research and Medical Education in March, 1956, from which it is hoped that hospitals will be enlightened concerning the advantages to be derived from research activity and educational programs in medicine. From the findings of this Conference, it is hoped to offer a plan of approach for Guilds to encourage such activity within their own membership or to support outside efforts. One Guild now offers a yearly research grant to a medical student for such a purpose.

#### MEDICO-MORAL PROBLEMS INSTITUTE

January 12-14, 1956 a Medico-Moral Problems Institute, conducted by Father John J. Lynch,

S.J., and sponsored by The Catholic Hospital Association, is to be held at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City. This three-day conference is for doctors, priests, sisters and nurses in the area. The local Catholic Physicians' Guilds are participating by sponsoring an evening session for doctors only.

#### AUSTRALIAN GUILDS

It was reported that the Federation headquarters received a request for a copy of the constitution of the Federation to be sent to Australia. Each state there has its own Catholic Physicians' Guild and it is the plan to affiliate the various groups in the same manner as in this country and to pattern national activities in line with those of this organization. The Board pledged any assistance it can give.

#### GUILD REPORTS

Representatives reported regarding the activities of their respective Guilds. These will be enumerated in the bulletin "Guilds in Focus."

#### FINANCES

The preliminary annual financial statement was presented, discussed, and approved.

A proposed budget for 1956 was submitted and approved.

#### FEDERATION EXHIBIT— A.M.A. CONVENTION

The Federation has been assigned exhibit space for the American Medical Association Convention scheduled for Chicago, Ill., June 11-15, 1956. A booth is being furnished gratuitously. Catholic literature related to health care will be distributed and members of the Federation will be on hand for consultation regarding Guilds and their activities.

A committee has been appointed to determine the details of the display.

All Catholic doctors attending the A.M.A. sessions will be urged to visit the booth; volunteers from affiliated Guilds to staff the booth for the four days will be solicited.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Federation in 1957, suggestion was accepted to ask Father Ignatius Cox, S.J., the first Moderator of the organization, to write the history of the Federation.

A telegram of good wishes for his welfare was sent to Father Gerald Kelly, S.J. in the name of the Federation Executive Board.

Meeting adjourned—12:30 p.m.