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## Executive Board: Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds: Winter Meeting - 1956

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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## *Executive Board*

### *Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds*

#### *Winter Meeting — 1956*

The winter meeting of the Executive Board of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was held in Cleveland, Ohio, December 8 and 9, 1956, at Hotel Statler. The following were present:

- M. F. Yeip, M.D. — President
- W. J. Egan, M.D. — First Vice-President, also Boston Guild
- E. J. Murphy, M.D. — Third Vice-President, also Bronx Guild
- Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. A. McGowan — Moderator
- Rev. Henry M. Gallagher — Moderator, Canton Guild
- Msgr. F. W. Carney — Moderator, Cleveland Guild
  
- R. M. Eiben, M.D. — Cleveland Guild
- G. P. G. Griffin, M.D. — Brooklyn Guild
- D. J. Hughson, M.D. — Milwaukee Guild
- R. P. Carney, M.D. — Davenport Guild
- D. A. Mulvihill, M.D. — New York Guild
- J. F. O'Neill, M.D. — Philadelphia Guild
- C. F. Berg, M.D. — Pittsburgh Guild
- J. C. Muccigrosso, M.D. — Westchester Guild
  
- 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 Executive Board Meeting, June 13, 1956, in Chicago, Illinois, as read by the Executive Secretary. Approved as mailed.

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President reported on the Federation booth at the A.M.A. convention held in Chicago during June 1956. This was an extremely successful "first" in the history of the Federation. Some 425 inquiry cards were signed, requesting information concerning the Catholic viewpoint on many moral issues in medical practice. All were acknowledged and processed to the limit of our ability. The display (which was highly impressive and in keeping with the dignity of our organization) was forwarded to St. Louis for storage and will be used again at the Convention in New York City, June 3-7, 1957. Officials of the American Hospital Association evidenced interest and extended an invitation to participate in the exhibits of their convention in September 1957.

The President further reported that Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. A. McGowan, moderator of the Federation, and Dr. John G. Muccigrosso, of the Westchester Guild, officially represented the Federation at the International Congress of Catholic Doctors at the Hague in September 1956.

The Dean of the Medical School and Professor of Pathology in Bombay, India visited the President during the year, advising that

there are Guilds in Patna, Delhi, and Calcutta. It is their wish to keep in touch with the American Guilds.

#### THE MODERATOR'S REPORT

Report on the International Congress of Catholic Doctors included mention of the fact that some 350 doctors from 20 countries were present. The registrants, along with their wives and children, added up to a fine group of slightly over 500. "Law and Medicine" was the theme. Some disappointment was noted because the emphasis at the International meeting was on theoretical problems rather than a down-to-earth discussion of the law as it relates to the practical everyday life of the Catholic doctor. The Holy Father broadcast a special message to the doctors in session via a closed circuit directly from Vatican City. A report was made by the Moderator of his visit to the Children's Hospital in Rome conducted by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. This visit was significant principally because the hospital involved is the only one in the world under the direct jurisdiction and patronage of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

The 1958 International Congress of Catholic Doctors will be held in Brussels. The World's Fair (a purely secular endeavor) will be held in Brussels the same year. The Vatican plans a special building to portray the life of the Catholic Church throughout the world. Our Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds will un-

doubtedly be asked to participate in a modest fashion.

Reference was made to the proposed principles of medical ethics to be discussed at the A.M.A. winter clinical sessions scheduled for Seattle, Washington. The proposed Code appeared in the December 11, 1956 issue of *Look* magazine; item n. 3 reading: "A physician should not base his practice on an exclusive dogma or a sectarian system, nor should he associate voluntarily with those who indulge in such practices." is in question and it was felt that the word "dogma" should be clarified. If the accepted draft includes this section without any change, it was recommended to contact the A.M.A. (Since these notes were written, the A.M.A. has changed the above quoted principle to read: "A physician should practice a system of healing founded only on a scientific basis. He should not voluntarily associate with those who violate this principle." This would definitely seem to eliminate any possibility of misinterpretation of the original proposal.)

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The distribution of the November issue of the journal was reported to be 8,015. Some 3,600 copies of the total were mailed to members of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. It was decided to feature a new cover design for the magazine; a layout was submitted and approved by members of the Board. The names of several publishing houses were suggested to contact as possible advertisers in *LINACRE QUARTERLY*.

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It was decided to ask each Guild to be responsible for submitting at least one article yearly for publication in the journal, written by a member, an important paper given by a speaker, etc. To stimulate the interest of Catholic doctors to write, it was voted to establish an annual Thomas Linacre Award for the best article submitted during the year. To make the first award in 1957, a survey of articles written by Catholic doctors published in *LINACRE QUARTERLY* during the past five years will be made to determine the recipient. The award will be in the nature of a medal suitably engraved and the doctor will be the guest of the Federation at each June meeting of the Board to receive it.

It was voted to add the names of the Most Reverend Bishops to the *LINACRE QUARTERLY* mailing list to receive the journal regularly.

To provide added revenue for the Federation and its activities, motion was made and passed to increase the subscription rate of *LINACRE QUARTERLY* for Guild members from \$1.50 a year to \$2.00, the same as for all other subscribers, effective January 1, 1957.

#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The number of affiliated Guilds comprising the Federation was reported as 58. Since the June 1956 meeting of the Board, four groups joined the Federation: Evansville, Indiana; Davenport, Iowa; Youngstown, Ohio, and Puerto Rico. Guilds pending were reported to be: Oklahoma City, Louisville,

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Peoria, Queens County, Staten Island, and Nassau-Suffolk County, New York; a second Guild in Philadelphia, and Alexandria, La.

#### PROMOTION OF GUILDS

To promote the organization of additional Guilds, it was suggested that a letter be sent to the Ordinaries of the United States giving Their Excellencies information about the growth of the Guilds with a view to stimulating organization where Catholic physicians do not have Guilds.

It was also suggested that articles be submitted to such special magazines as reach the attention of priests and that the Bishops' Representatives for Catholic hospitals be alerted concerning the aims and functions of the Guilds so that they might carry on this important apostolic work.

To give more responsibility to existing Guilds, it was suggested that representatives be appointed regionally to investigate possibilities of organizing groups in their geographical areas. These representatives would confer with the Executive Committee of the Federation and be the operating nucleus for future Guilds. This is being done in some dioceses of the United States at the present time.

Guilds are requested to send in to the central office the names of any priest-doctors of whom they have knowledge to accord them honorary membership in the Federation. The Moderator was asked to send a letter to all dioceses in the nation to obtain the names of priests who have medical degrees.

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## THE "WHITE MASS"

It was reported that the 1956 observance of the "White Mass" was the most widespread since the Federation began sponsoring it three years ago. The Mass was offered in many Cathedrals and parish churches, with the Bishop of the diocese as celebrant in many cities. Catholic hospitals in areas where there are no Guilds cooperated most generously in offering their chapels for the Mass. Press publicity for the occasion was generous and provided excellent promotion not only for the "White Mass" but also to inform the public regarding Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

A resume of the reports received at the central office was sent to each Guild.

## FINANCES

The preliminary annual financial statement was presented, discussed and approved. A proposed budget for 1957 was submitted and approved. A copy of each report was mailed to the President and Moderator of each Guild.

## JUNE MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD — 1957

It was voted to hold the June meeting of the Executive Board of the Federation on the 4th at 8:00 p.m., Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. Election of officers will take place at this meeting.

## FEDERATION EXHIBIT — A.M.A. CONVENTION 1957

For the second year, the Federation will participate in the exhibits

of the American Medical Association Convention to be held in New York City, June 3-7. The booth will be staffed by Guild members. The Davenport, Iowa Guild will direct this project. Those wishing to volunteer hours of service are requested to write to the central office of the Federation, advising date and time available.

## SILVER JUBILEE OBSERVANCE

The 25th anniversary of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds will be observed on June 5, 1957 in New York City. The Committee appointed by the President, consisting of members of the Bronx, Brooklyn, New York, and Westchester Guilds submitted plans for the observance of the occasion. Members of the Board present voted to accept the arrangements. An anniversary Mass will be offered at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 9 or 9:30 a.m. In the evening it is proposed to hold a banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The seating capacity is 1,000. Music will be provided, a prominent guest speaker is to be engaged, and the dinner will be following by dancing. Dinner tickets will be \$15.00 each.

To pay tribute to the Moderators of the Federation, in their honor a chalice will be given to the Medical Mission Sisters to be used in one of their mission chapels. Gavels will be presented to the past-Presidents of the Federation. The first Thomas Linacre Award will be conferred.

The Committee was authorized

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to negotiate with the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and make all necessary arrangements to carry out the plans.

In response to the request of O'Scannlain & English Travel Service, Shamrock Building, New

York City, to be designated as the official agent of the Federation for transportation to New York for the Jubilee celebration, the Board approved this firm.

Meeting adjourned—12:30 p.m.,  
December 9.

As LINACRE QUARTERLY goes to press we are happy to announce that General Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine Ambassador to the United States, has accepted our invitation to be the principal speaker at our Silver Jubilee Banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

General Romulo's acceptance gives the final touch to our program.