

May 1957

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Recommended Citation

Flanagan, John J. (1957) "Twenty-five Years of Catholic Action," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 24 : No. 2 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol24/iss2/1>

Twenty-five Years of Catholic Action

THE PERIOD through which the Catholic Church in America has been passing may well be called the Catholic Action era. It is one which has witnessed the development of many organizations of Catholic lay men and women. These have played an important part in the growth and understanding of the Church in America. It was only natural and logical that Catholic physicians should become a part of this great movement.

On the occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, it is a pleasure to review the status of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. Like so many good movements the number of Guilds grew slowly and the Federation had its years of discouragement. It is quite evident, however, that the founders of the Guilds and the Federation had sound ideas and planned wisely.

When the Federation was established in 1932, there were only seven Guilds. Today there are sixty, scattered across the country from Vancouver to New York and from Minnesota to Puerto Rico. Guild members now number 4,300. Membership in individual Guilds ranges from twelve to six hundred. More than 1,000 physicians who do not belong to Guilds subscribe to THE LINACRE QUARTERLY, the Federation's official journal.

It is interesting to note that subscriptions to THE LINACRE QUARTERLY now total 8,500. This means that the Federation is now extending its influence beyond the ranks of Guild members; its journal goes to many seminaries, to hundreds of priests, to many Catholic hospitals and libraries, and to hundreds of individual Catholic physicians, many of whom are practicing in small towns and rural areas.

It is a pleasure to be able to congratulate Father Cox, Father Schwitalla, and Monsignor McGowan who as Moderators have led the Federation to this enviable position. We can never forget the work of the late Dr. Richard A. Rendich whose inspiration it was to organize Catholic Physicians' Guilds and ultimately the Federation, the late Dr. Joseph Dillon, and his wife, who now lives in New York City. Neither can we forget the work and devotion of scores of other Catholic physicians who faithfully supported the Federation through its years of struggle. We now enjoy the fruits of their labors.

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