

May 1957

Looking Forward: with Father Ignatius Cox, S.J., Moderator of the Federation, 1932-1945

Ignatius Cox

Follow this and additional works at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/lmq>

Recommended Citation

Cox, Ignatius (1957) "Looking Forward: with Father Ignatius Cox, S.J., Moderator of the Federation, 1932-1945," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 24 : No. 2 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/lmq/vol24/iss2/3>



Looking Forward

with Father Ignatius Cox, S.J.
Moderator of the Federation
1932-1945

Greetings to the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds on its Silver Jubilee!

My memory goes back to 1932 when we formed the Federation. At its origin, there were at most six or seven Guilds. Vivid memories are present of how hard it was in the passing years to keep the Federation going and THE LINACRE QUARTERLY in existence.

The 60 active Guilds today with their 4,300 members and the 8,500 readers of the LINACRE are statistical evidence of the manifest and manifold blessings of God on this great work. Catholic physicians now have a strong national organization and

a national voice. These are tremendously important for the part the Catholic Church in America is to play in the days before us.

There was a clear need in the beginning of the Federation. It was to form a powerful barrier of both science and Catholicism, against the loose morals and sex liberalism of the day. Those conditions are still with us.

May I suggest a paramount objective for the Federation in the twenty-five years to come. The Federation in the past has grown outwardly. But if it is to realize all its possibilities for God and country in the years which lie ahead, it must parallel its *outward* growth with an *interior* growth. This can only mean *growth in Christ*. Let it be the overall aim of the Federation as it journeys towards its Golden Jubilee to foster and favor activity by the Guilds which will bring about the intensification of the spiritual life of its individual members.

This is not easy. The Catholic physician has a vital place in the Mystical Body of Christ. There is a special sanctity that befits his vocation in the hierarchy of Christian activity. We will start the study of the elements of that specific sanctity here. We are thinking of days of recollection, conducted by a master, on the lines of that specific sanctity. Days of recollection thus conducted, together with the annual retreat, will lead to a knowledge and practice of a Catholic way of life *proper and specific* for him as a member of the Mystical Body of Christ.

If the individual Guilds under the leadership of the Federation make their *paramount* purpose the intensification of the spiritual life of their members, there will be no doubt about our achievement for Christ in the Catholic America which is dawning. The celebration of our Golden Jubilee will proclaim and radiate the glory of God.