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Federation Milestones ... A Greeting from Rt. Rev. Msgr. Donald A. McGowan, National Moderator

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Federation Milestones . . .

A greeting from
RT. REV. MSGR. DONALD
A. MCGOWAN
NATIONAL MODERATOR

Greetings and prayerful congratulations to the individual members who, working together, make up the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. The occasion for such a message is, happily, the twenty-fifth birthday of the Federation.

The story of everyone's life is punctuated by many milestones. Temporally, each individual's life recounts birthdays, anniversaries and other noteworthy events. Spiritually, life's most important milestones are the reception of the Sacra-

ments. The same chronological highlights mark the development of a Catholic organization.

On this occasion of our Silver Jubilee, we combine both the temporal and the spiritual. Our Mass, celebrated by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman at St. Patrick's Cathedral, will emphasize the spiritual joy of the occasion. The temporal establishment of this great milestone in our history will take place in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where our banquet will be held. So do we pay tribute to man's soul and body which is the dedicated interest of every true Catholic physician. Indeed, it symbolizes Catholic psychosomatic medicine at its very best.

All of us connected with the work of the individual Guilds and the Federation can take a modest pride in the development of our "body" since its "baptism" twenty-five years ago.

Much has been accomplished and we would be remiss if we did not pay high tribute to the great pioneer moderators, Father Cox, S.J., and Father Schwitalla, S.J., and also to the long list of splendid presidents and officers who did so much to make our first twenty-five years successful. If I were to mention one of the many important achievements of the Guilds, it would be the growing emphasis on the "White Mass" celebrated under the sponsorship of the Guilds throughout the nation on the Feast Day of St. Luke, "the Beloved Physician."

We would also like to take this occasion to express our deep gratitude for the interest and support of the Hierarchy in our work.

The accomplishments of the past twenty-five years have been gratifying but there is still much to be done. May we all fervently pray that our past performance is but a promise of greater things to come.

Foremost in our minds during the Silver Jubilee celebration should be the purposes of our organization:

1. To uphold the principles of Catholic faith and morality as related to the science and practice of medicine.
2. To assist the ecclesiastical authorities in the diffusion of the knowledge of Catholic medical ethics.
3. To uphold Catholic hospitals in their enforcement of Catholic moral principles in medical practice.

I can think of no better ending for this message than to reverently borrow the words of His Holiness Pope Pius XII given in a special broadcast to the 7th International Congress of Catholic Doctors last summer at The Hague in The Netherlands, which meeting we were privileged to attend: "It remains for Us only to wish a happy development and full success to your work. Certainly you cannot attain your objectives in a few days, but you should certainly approach your goal and obtain without the least doubt the aid of the truth, the knowledge and the wisdom of God."