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In Praise of the Dedicated

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The winter meeting of the Executive Board of the Federation will be held December 5 and 6 at the Baker Hotel in Dallas, Texas. As these meetings rotate throughout the country, your officers attempt a bit of missionary work in the various geographical areas. Of Texas it can be truly said that the inspiration is in reverse. Dr. Fred Taylor of Houston, a distinguished authority and lecturer on child behavior, has traveled the area sowing a fertile seed of enthusiasm in Catholic Action. Dallas, as the first Guild in the State, started with four doctors and now lists forty-five. Austin is our most recent affiliate and the 8th Texas Guild out of seven large land-areas dioceses. With Dr. Jesse J. Brady as President it has five charter members. The roster will increase after the “White Mass.”

Two items on the December agenda are of wide interest:

1. A life membership in the Federation will be granted to each non-physician. Two years ago, we made a similar presentation to priest-physicians. As the latter have moved to new assignments, we find our members in the University of Sophia in Japan and in the dark recesses of Africa and India. The nuns of Maryknoll, of the Medical Missions, of the Franciscan Medical Missionaries will likewise cherish LINACRE and Guilds-in-Action in distant mission fields. And in turn, they will be praying for our success at home.

2. The Catholic Physician of the Year will be honored. The biographies of the nominees are inspiring in their accomplishments for God, for Medicine, for Community and for Family. Each nominee has fully merited the Award. A nationwide vote is in progress. It is our hope that the physician designated can be with us around the board table in Dallas.

Texas, also, will have your Federation booth in action at the American Medical Association Clinical Sessions to be held in Dallas, December 1-4. It is a “first” for the Federation at this meeting. We have participated in the annual conventions held in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Atlantic City but not during any of the winter sessions. The Southwest is a long trip from any of these foci. We are confident that the reception accorded the booth will be enthusiastic.

Finally, for the Officers of the Federation and for our hosts in Dallas, we bid welcome to each delegate and moderator of the eighty-six Guilds to the great State of Texas.

WILLIAM J. EGAN, M.D.

LINACRE QUARTERLY

IN PRAISE OF THE DEDICATED

T. J. FLANAGAN, S. J.

The National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds, through its Board of Directors and Msgr. Donald A. McGuigan, has planned to speak to you on the occasion of this annual Memorial Mass. I can express his great regret that he cannot be present. I know that he is not here because of his doctor’s order. I consider it an honor to be able to address you in his absence.

We have gathered here this afternoon to offer the Holy Mass and to pray for the deceased members of our National Federation and for all departed Catholic physicians. On an occasion like this, we have an opportunity to meditate on the qualities of a Catholic professional person. We may take the liberty of comparing the qualities of the Catholic physician with the qualities of men who are part of the business world.

The latter, very frankly and properly, are engaged in a type of activity which permits a person to be motivated by selfish interest. Within the limitations of charity and justice, the businessman legitimacy takes as his goal in life the making of money — the accumulation of wealth. He is not by his vocation in life bound by or dedicated to the unselfish service of others. Christian society recognizes this as a proper business approach.

The professional man, on the other hand, is, as it were, set aside from the cold materialistic calculations of the market place. He has chosen a vocation in life which by its very nature and its tradition is dedicated to serving the needs of his fellowmen. The very motivation in life is service — service to men, women, and children — and service of a very personal and intimate nature.

The professional man has special God-given talents; he has had extensive education and developed particular skills. All of these, however, he possesses and uses not for himself or his selfish desires, but for the benefit of suffering humanity. All of these gifts are held in trust for all mankind, and especially the sick.

This concept of the professional man is beautiful and places the professions themselves on a very high and Christian plane. This understanding of a profession gives dignity and sacredness to the life and the work of a truly Catholic physician.
This afternoon as we meditate on the work of the deceased members of our Federation, we can well think of their years of service in terms of this dedicated and unselfish service to others. These services, together with their religious observance, constitute their glory. It is well for us on this occasion to give thought to our own lives in order that we may make sure that these same ideals motivate us. It is easy to be distracted by the attractive materialistic values which surround us daily.

As we pray for our deceased members in the Mass today, we should not forget to pray for ourselves, and we should remember Catholic physicians as a group—we should pray that they shall not lose that truly Christian professionalism which means so much in the world today and we should ask God’s grace for the sick who are dependent upon the professional spirit of the medical profession.

I would be derelict in my duty today if I did not pay my respects to the wives of our Catholic physicians. It is true that as a group these men have accomplished an incalculable amount of good and continue to do so each day. Nevertheless, they could not have done so much, served so unselfishly, if they did not have the understanding, the sympathy and the support of their wives. The life of a physician is not easy, nor is the life of a physician’s wife completely tranquil. Indeed, the sacrifices are frequently so great that they could not be borne if these women did not understand and share the professional idealism of their husbands. We honor them today, also.

In this Memorial Mass, therefore, we prayerfully remember deceased physicians and their wives and we pray that the traditional spirit of unselfish professional service will motivate and support all of our Catholic physicians and their wives today and throughout the year.

Federation Executive Board Meeting Scheduled

The Executive Board of the Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds will meet December 5-6, 1959. Time: 9:30 a.m. Place: Baker Hotel, Dallas, Texas . . . The officers of the Federation and one delegate from each active constituent Guild constituting the Board will conduct business . . . Election of Officers.

Linacre Quarterly

THE FRUITS OF CONSERVATISM IN THE TREATMENT OF OVARIAN PATHOLOGY

HOWARD L. CHRISTIAN, M.D.

IN THIS ERA of operation, from the most serious to the most trivial. In fact, at one time the concept of conservatism in the treatment of ovaries was a common procedure to remove the ovaries in the treatment of weakness or a hollow stomach, or in the treatment of various mental disturbances. After a time this practice was discouraged, when it was observed that the individual was deprived not only of ovulation but also of factors which had a marked influence on the general health.

SOME ASPECTS OF OVARIAN PHYSIOLOGY

As a result of the painstaking work of a number of investigators, there has been a gradual evolution of knowledge regarding the endocrine function of the ovaries. The more important of these are:

1. Preservation of the functional capacity for pregnancy. For the maintenance of this function, there must be one viable ovary, or a piece of one ovary, and a patent tube. Anatomically, it is conceivable that a small wedge of ovarian tissue with an intact blood supply may be adequate to maintain a normal physiological balance. The possibility of pregnancy will depend upon the presence of one or more Graafian follicles which are capable of maturation and of releasing a viable ovum. Under these circumstances, pregnancy is pos-