

February 1961

Minutes, Winter Meetings, Executive Board, National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, December 3, 1960, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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MINUTES
WINTER MEETING

EXECUTIVE BOARD

National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds

DECEMBER 3, 1960

MAYFLOWER HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ROLL CALL

Officers present

EUSEBIUS J. MURPHY, M.D. — President
JOSEPH E. HOLOUBEK, M.D. — First Vice-President
CLEMENT P. CUNNINGHAM, M.D. — Second Vice-President
GERARD P. J. GRIFFIN, M.D. — Third Vice-President
FRED M. TAYLOR, M.D. — Treasurer

Affiliated Guilds represented

CONSTANTINE P. DOLKAS, M.D. — Los Angeles, Calif.
ROSALIE M. REARDON, M.D. — Oakland (East Bay), Calif.
JULIAN W. BUSER, M.D. — Belleville, Ill.
C. P. CUNNINGHAM, M.D. — Rock Island, Ill.
JAMES T. NIX, M.D. — New Orleans, La.
MARGARET AKIN, M.D. — Shreveport, La.
FRANCIS W. DRINAN, M.D. — Boston, Mass.
WILLIAM P. CHESTER, M.D. — Detroit, Mich.
C. J. MATERNOWSKI, M.D. — Grand Rapids, Mich.
ROBERT F. HICKEY, M.D. — St. Louis, Mo.
D. F. O'KEEFE, M.D. — Albany, N. Y.
A. J. ALTIERI, M.D. — Bronx, N. Y.
GEO. F. CUNNINGHAM, M.D. — Brooklyn, N. Y.
JOHN ZOLL, M.D. — Buffalo, N. Y.
JAMES T. DANIELS, M.D. — New York, N. Y.
ARTHUR H. KLAUM, M.D. — Queens, N. Y.
GERARD P. J. GRIFFIN, M.D. — Rockville Centre, N. Y.
HAROLD PENDER, M.D. — Utica, N. Y.
CHARLES S. WOHL, M.D. — Toledo, Ohio
G. G. PAPOLA, M.D. — Philadelphia (St. Francis of A.), Pa.
VERY REVEREND V. B. BREZIK — Houston, Texas
J. F. AMBURY, M.D. — Arlington, Va.
J. T. BYRNE, M.D. — Richmond, Va.

Others

RT. REV. D. A. MCGOWAN — Nat'l Federation Moderator
REVEREND J. J. FLANAGAN, S.J. — Editor, THE LINACRE QUARTERLY
MR. M. R. KNEIFL — Consultant
MISS JEAN READ — Executive Secretary
REVEREND M. J. BORDELON — Moderator, Shreveport Guild
REVEREND J. J. LYNCH, S.J. — Weston College, Weston, Mass.
REVEREND E. O'MALLEY — Moderator, Albany Guild
D. A. MULVIHILL, M.D. — Honorary President
WILLIAM J. EGAN, M.D. — Boston, Mass., Past President
T. PROSSER, III, D.D.S. — Belleville, Ill. Guild
J. L. CIRINCIONE, M.D. — Albany Guild
REVEREND E. L. UNTERKOEFLER — Moderator, Richmond, Va. Guild
REVEREND J. B. GREMILLION — CRS — N.C.W.C., New York

REVEREND JAMES H. FITZPATRICK — Moderator, Brooklyn and Queens Guilds
ROBERT P. LOCEY, M.D. — Raleigh, No. Carolina
F. O'BRIEN, D.D.S. — Brooklyn, N. Y.
E. J. DORAN, D.D.S. — Buffalo, N. Y.
GEORGE PRICE, M.D. — Brooklyn, N. Y.
JOHN CAVANAGH, M.D. — Washington, D. C.
EDWARD J. HOLMES, M.D. — New Delhi, India

Sessions of the National Federation Executive Board convened at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 3, 1960, at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President advised that he had participated in a program held at Fordham University, New York on Health of Religious, a project of great interest to the National Federation.

His recent European trip included a visit to England where invitation was extended to all American Catholic physicians through the National organization to attend the 10th International Congress of Catholic Doctors to be held in London, July 9-14, 1962. American physicians are encouraged to give papers at the sessions. The theme of the meeting is to be "The Catholic Doctor in a Changing Society." Members of the English Guild of St. Luke, SS. Cosmas and Damian, met with the President. They are anxious to exchange articles published in our respective journals.

In Rome, the President had an audience with Gregoire Pierre XV Agagianian of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith regarding International Medical Service for the missions, of interest to the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

At another quarter, an appointment was had with Father Paul Phillipe, O.P., Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Health of Religious Program well under way through the Committee assisting with this project.

He was in audience with Pope John XXIII on the first day of the third year of his reign as Pontiff.

The President extended thanks to the officers and committees for their efforts in behalf of the Federation. He will be present at the organization meeting and speak to the doctors who will be charter members of the first Guilds to be established for the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey on December 8.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Account was given of the extent of the White Mass observance. Its establishment is assured. An abundance of newspaper clippings indicated celebration of the Mass in hospital chapels, parish churches, and cathedrals. Development of the project remains the autonomous wish of individual Guilds throughout the country. The Moderator reported that this activity has done more to keep those in the fold more alert and cognizant of their Faith and even brought back some who may have become lax than any other national function.

He thanked the Committee working with the lay medical service program and encouraged the members to continue with their work.

In comparing the National Federation with similar groups in other parts of the world, it was mentioned that this organization has no equal for enthusiasm and variety of activities.

Gratitude was also expressed to the Health of Religious Program Committee for its fruitful efforts.

Comment was made on the interview appearing in a new publication reaching A.M.A. members — World Medical News — that discussed the birth control issue in the State of Connecticut. Many letters were sent to the editors refuting the statements of the Catholic physician who indicated his views and practices under the State law which is being challenged in the Connecticut Supreme Court. It was decided not to reply as a National Federation in the matter.

The Public Relations Committee of the Federation further cautioned Guilds to be careful about issuing statements to the press and others on the Catholic Church and medicine. Often a quick answer to a situation is sought which needs more time to consider before formulating the proper reply.

It is recommended that in the case of objections to certain products or their use, the better procedure is to individually contact the manufacturer to state complaints.

The Moderator asked the Guild

representatives to promote a monthly Holy Hour in their hospital chapels. Recommended a talk and Benediction. He advised that the staff at the N.C.W.C. office recite the Rosary together each day at noon; doctors' intentions are often remembered.

The matter of dentists' membership in physicians' guilds was mentioned. Two observers from a group interested in organizing a National Federation of Catholic Dentists were present for the sessions. In the absence of a guild of their own, they are encouraged to join the Catholic physicians in their groups wherever located.

THE LINACRE QUARTERLY

It was reported that the distribution of the November, 1960 issue of the journal totaled 10,483. Circulation includes readers among the membership of Physicians' Guilds totaling 6,100; the balance reaches hospitals, libraries, teachers, students and physicians who are not members of Guilds.

Material for publication is in continual demand. An Editorial Board was appointed. The members are:

- Dr. Fred A. Taylor — Houston, Texas
- Dr. William J. Egan, Boston, Mass.
- Dr. Eugene G. Laforet — Boston, Mass.

The services of an agency are to be sought for advertising in the journal.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership Chairman advised again of the plan of State representatives to organize Guilds in their own areas. There are 15 States without such leaders. The membership total in the 93 affiliated Guilds was reported to be 6,100.

REPORT OF IX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CATHOLIC DOCTORS MUNICH, JULY, 1960

Dr. J. E. Holoubek, official Federation delegate to this congress, enlarged on his report given in the August, 1960 issue of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY. He advised that physicians in foreign lands are interested in our activities. The Health Care of Religious Program initiated through the Federation's efforts was well received. There is a great need in foreign lands for medical literature as well as for personal assistance from the profession and American Guild members are encouraged to cooperate wherever possible.

ANNUAL MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

The annual meeting of the Executive Board will be held in New York City, Wednesday, June 28, 1961 at 11:00 a.m. The place: Commodore Hotel.

A Memorial Mass for deceased members of the medical profession will be offered by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 9:00 a.m. that day.

A reception and dinner dance

will be held at the Commodore Hotel in the evening. Ticket price will be \$20.00 per person. The New York City area Guilds are in charge of arrangements. Martin J. Healy, M.D., Chairman, can be reached c/o Misericordia Hospital, 600 E. 233rd St., Bronx, New York, for tickets and other information. The Guilds are urged to assist in the project. Further details will be advised through THE LINACRE QUARTERLY and personal notices.

FEDERATION EXHIBIT

The Exhibit Committee Chairman explained that for the past six years the Federation has exhibited at the A.M.A. convention using the same display. It was recommended that a change be made in presentation with the preparation of a new display that would lend itself to more audience participation, making available an audio-type of manner to disseminate information on medico-moral issues. A recording would be made of authorities speaking on important topics in this field and headphones would be provided for listening.

The value of exhibiting at A.M.A. meetings cannot be measured, but the only Catholic atmosphere provided at these conventions is the participation of the National Federation through this activity and is well received by the visitors.

The estimated cost of the new display would approximate \$2,000. Ways and means for payment might possibly include Guilds contributing to its payment.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION SERVICE

To pursue the project of active participation in medical care for the missions, Dr. Robert P. Locey explained the plan presented to the Federation Executive Board at its annual meeting, June 15, 1960. The widespread interest among Catholic physicians to personally participate or actively assist from the homefront in medical mission work spearheads the movement. At present there is no centralized organization for the collection and dissemination of information as to the areas needing aid and facilities available for the practice of medicine. The assistance of the National Federation is sought to sponsor such a service group to accomplish the purpose of putting "teams" into the missions for care of the sick.

The Committee proposed a constitution and by-laws which were distributed and read to those present.

It was advised that each Guild President had received a letter stating the aims and purposes of the International Medical Service and urged the sending of a representative to the Board meeting.

Monsignor McGowan explained that the advice of missiologists in the field had been sought and the Legal Department of N.C.W.C. will consider any elements in this area that need attention.

At this point, since the plan is not finalized, the Executive Board could not be asked to approve I.M.S. It was recommended to wait until the organization is ready

to be presented to Ecclesiastical authorities for approval.

I.M.S. is highly recommended by the Mission Secretariat in the United States. It should be a professional organization, primarily formed for the medical care of sick people, not conversions. It is felt that it will bring to itself a great amount of support. The Propagation of the Faith receives funds for 700 missions in the sum of eighteen or nineteen millions, but only 15% or 20% of the needs are actually met. This sum does not support the missions.

The very specific purpose should be to make the Church visible in mission countries and in time native personnel can take over after the seed is sown. In 50 years, the word "missionary" may be obsolete. Pope Pius XII urged all people to support the missions. It is no longer "Jesus and I."

The Committee foresees an independent organization that will have the support of the National Federation until maturity of its program.

In summation, the Chairman stated the need for such an organization; felt that the basic structure is set forth in the proposed constitution, and that the reaction of individual Guilds to the proposed program has been most encouraging. More than zeal is needed. Policies and implementation are now necessary.

The resolution passed by the Federation at its annual meeting was read to compare progress. It was felt that developments as presented at this meeting would create

a new and independent organization rather than a sponsored project of the Guilds. Despite the differences of opinion as to whether I.M.S. would be a subsidiary of the Federation, it was felt that the latter is being given the opportunity to initiate an important missionary service. The financial support needed was not spelled out in any definite amount.

At this point in the meeting, Dr. E. Holmes of the American Embassy in New Delhi, India in this country for a brief period explained that there is a great need for doctors in foreign lands. A Catholic medical school is being founded in India; at present there are two Protestant ones. Instructors will be needed to upgrade the profession; our doctors in missionary countries give prestige to the United States. Funds are necessary for scholarships. The need to teach medical ethics in the light of Catholic beliefs is imperative. Germany will furnish \$500,000 to the new St. John's Medical School. The urgency to begin such a Program as I.M.S. proposes could not be advocated enough by Dr. Holmes who also recommended that the Committee consider scholarships and exchange students as part of its endeavor.

By resolution, Dr. William J. Egan moved to return the matter to the Mission Committee for further study, as follows:

Whereas: The Executive Board of the National Federation has recognized the need of a lay Mission Board;

Whereas: The delegates of the

individual Guilds are eager to financially support the inauguration of such a Board, and

Whereas: Dr. E. Holmes of the American Embassy in New Delhi, India has been good enough to add his personal plea for haste

I move that the Study Committee for I.M.S. be instructed to present before June, 1961 to the officers of the National Federation, a suggested charter for a corporation subsidiary to the National Federation to be voted upon at the Executive Board meeting in New York, on June 28, 1961.

HEALTH OF RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

The need for the Program in the light of requests to The Catholic Hospital Association for assistance in formulating a medical examination form and other phases of health care for clergy and religious was briefly outlined.

The Progress Report of the Committee was read by Dr. J. T. Nix, Chairman, and covered the following topics:

- Education and orientation
- Development of methods and liaison
- Research
- Pilot Program
- Current Projects

A standard health record system for clergy and religious was also explained, consisting of a medical form for examinees, a medical identification card, and a physician's report.

The Committee feels that the Program in its present form should be adopted by The Catholic Hos-

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pital Association and that the three forms mentioned above are ready for publication and distribution.

Sister Annette, C.S.J., Executive Secretary of the Sister Formation Movement, present for this portion of the meeting, advised that major superiors are interested in such a Program as proposed by this Committee. Sister will be kept appraised of developments.

X. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CATHOLIC DOCTORS

Dr. John Cavanagh of Washington, D.C. was present to give information concerning the 10th International Congress of Catholic Doctors to be held in London, July 9-14, 1962. It is hoped that a large number of American Catholic physicians will plan to attend. He advised that during 20 years existence, no American Catholic doctor has been a Board member of this International group.

The theme for the Congress is "The Catholic Doctor in a Changing Society." Topics for consideration are:

- The Dignity of Death
- Adolescence
- The Aged
- Mental Health
- The Catholic in the New Independent State

It is hoped that at least 200 American doctors will attend and any wishing to give papers are urged to participate. A group trip is being planned; each doctor would be responsible for his own expenses.

GUILD REPORTS

Reports of Guild activities were submitted by delegates to the

Board meeting. They will appear in detail in *Guilds in Action*, the Federation newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Under new business, the President announced the appointment of the following to attend the White House Conference on the Aging to be held in Washington, D.C., January 9-12, 1961:

- Dr. William J. Egan, Boston, Mass.
- Dr. C. Cunningham, Rock Island, Ill.
- Dr. Gerard P. J. Griffin, Brooklyn, New York
- Dr. Alice Holoubek, Shreveport, La.

With increased Federation activity and further development needed for THE LINACRE QUARTERLY, request was made for added personnel to assist at the central office. The Board acquiesced.

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The Board meeting adjourned at 5:00 p. m. Dinner meeting followed at 7:30. Guest speaker, Reverend Frederick McGuire, secretary of the Mission Secretariat, Washington, D. C.

The Catholic Physician of the Year Award was also made. Dr. Leslie D. Cassidy of St. Louis received the honor posthumously. His death occurred two weeks after being named for this annual award. Dr. Robert F. Hickey received the scroll and medallion for Dr. Cassidy's family.

Honorary Federation membership was also accorded ten non-physicians and two priest-physicians. Certificates will be mailed to them.