February 1960

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Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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Recommended Citation
Catholic Physicians' Guilds (1960) "National Federation Board Elects Dr. Eusebius J. Murphy President ...." The Linacre Quarterly: Vol. 27 : No. 1 , Article 1.
Available at: http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol27/iss1/1
National Federation Board Elects

Dr. Busebius J. Murphy

President

At the Executive Board Meeting on December 5, 1959, held in Dallas, Texas, Dr. Eusebius J. Murphy, member of the Bronx Guild, was elected the ninth president of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

After graduating from Fordham University in 1927, Dr. Murphy received his medical education at Georgetown University and did his internship at Morrisania City Hospital in the Bronx. In his work as a physician, service has been given to eight hospitals in New York, and he is medical director at St. Patrick's Home for the Aged. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Among other offices, Dr. Murphy was president of the New York Celtic Medical Society during 1959. He is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Catholic Action claims a large portion of the Federation president's time. Interested in the pre-Cana Movement, Dr. Murphy is a medical advisor to the New York City Conference. He is chairman of the Retreat Committee of his Guild and has served as president of the Bronx group. He is a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and a Knight of Malta.

Dr. Murphy now begins his term as our president, succeeding Dr. William J. Egan of Boston, whose untiring devotion to the office has spurred the National Federation to greater growth and accomplishments.

We congratulate Dr. Murphy on his election and pledge loyal support during the years ahead. Other officers who will assist during his term are: Dr. J. E. Holoubek, Shreveport, First Vice-President; Dr. C. P. Cunningham, Rock Island, Ill., Second Vice-President; Dr. Gerard P. J. Griffin, Brooklyn, Third Vice-President; Dr. Robert M. Eiben, Cleveland, Secretary, and Dr. Fred M. Taylor, Houston, Treasurer.

The World Population Question

Controversy over birth control and the population explosion, lately drawn into American politics, prompted your Editors to seek out clarifying expression of the Catholic viewpoint for any need our readers might have in discussing these topics.

A most timely symposium was published in the December 21, 1959 issue of United States News & World Report, entitled "The Birth-Control Issue — What Both Sides Say." We reprint the questions and answers asked of Reverend William J. Gibbons, S.J., a sociologist and economist who for years has specialized in population problems. He has contributed numerous articles and reports to Catholic and non-Catholic periodicals on population growth. He has taken part in many U. S. and international conferences dealing with problems of population and economic development. Father Gibbons now lectures in sociology at Fordham University in New York City.

The interview that follows was carried in the above magazine along with excerpts from the World Council of Churches report, "Responsible Parenthood and the Population Problem," and the statements of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church and the Lambeth Conference of the Bishops of the Anglican Communion.

At New York City

Q. Father Gibbons, is the world facing a problem of overcrowpopulation?

A. Yes, though that word is easily misunderstood. The difficulty arising from present trends is very appreciable, not in terms of absolute overcrowpopulation, but rather in terms of the rates of growth.

Q. What's the difference?

A. The difference is this: Absolute overcrowpopulation would only be present where you would have no more living space or where you would not have adequate resources, despite any advance in technology. Such a situation is obviously quite a way off. According to estimates of good economists on the capacity of the world at a reasonable level of living, it's anywhere between 10 and 20, or even more, times the present population.

Q. Is the actual problem the rate of growth?

A. Yes. An excessive rate of growth prevents orderly economic and social development. It presents problems with capital formation, with the creation of job opportunities, with the provision of adequate housing and living space in cities and so on.

It also has very serious impacts on education in the provision of schools, teachers and facilities to educate people to live in the new