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Ecce Aneilla Domini

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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ovulator. The relationship between ovulation and the following menstrual period is consistent. The relationship between the ovulation and the previous menstrual period is consistent only when the cycles occur at regular intervals.

Nearly everyone believes that the stimulus of sexual activity may precipitate ovulation, particularly in the irregular menstruator. On the other hand, these girls will eventually ovulate spontaneously. One of our records to be published, is that of a para VI who feels desperate about another pregnancy. Her menses are irregular, often as far apart as 50 and 60 days. Recently she brought in her record that showed a flat temperature curve the first 50 days. On day 49 she showed the first positive glucose reaction, had abdominal pain, and on day 50 had a thermal shift in the temperature curve. Only until day 53 did she consider herself safe and her restraint was rewarded by menstruation on day 63. Such prolonged absence of sexual functions has its own advantages, but so does an unintended pregnancy. These couples must decide which price they are willing to pay. The amount of security a woman receives from measuring and knowing when she ovulates is very valuable to her. Nobody has ever been able to demonstrate that lack of sexual activity is harmful to physical or emotional health.

In summary, it is reasonable that women can measure the time of their ovulation and thereby space their pregnancies at a desired interval. It requires help from the physician and motivation from the patient. No one claims that these methods are completely accurate. No “method” is doctors are often not well enough informed to realize that it is a reasonable practice and consistently find it difficult to “sell” it to the patient. The patient is often discouraged to begin with and needs all the help and encouragement that the doctor can muster.

It is interesting that many otherwise well-informed Catholics have said that the Church will yield to the pressures and sanctions of artificial contraceptives. Theologians have repeatedly stressed that the rules governing procreation are those of the natural law. Since this is true the Church does not have the authority to change them regardless of pressure. The Church has been known to lose the British Empire in one fell swoop because she refused to sanction divorce. Neither will she change the stand on contraception.

Furthermore, everyone knows that contraceptive gadgets are not nearly 100% effective. Neither do we claim that temperature and glucose methods are 100% effective. It would seem clear that gadgets are more convenient. Likewise, there are many times in every person’s schedule when it is inconvenient to hear Mass. Because of the convenience factor, no one can accurately compare the different methods. If the temperature and glucose methods are used properly, it is reasonable to believe that their accuracy would equal that of artificial contraceptives. It behooves the doctor to be professionally equipped to instruct in this matter.

**Ecco Ancilla Domini**

The National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds bestows honorary membership on priests and religious who are physicians. For the most part, those religious who are practicing medicine are in the missions. Along with acknowledgment of this gesture, interesting accounts of their work accompany many of the “thank you” notes. We publish a few to inspire and inform. The Maryknoll Sister-physicians greet us with “Behold the Handmaid of the Lord” truly expressing the thoughts they send us and which we pass along to our readers.

Sister M. Augustus Doyle, MMM, M.D. writes from St. Joseph’s Hospital in Uganda—

I write to thank you for the great honour you have conferred on me in making me an honorary life member of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds. Your certificate has taken a long time to reach me, having gone round the world a bit first, but I hasten to thank you for it now.

When one is “buried” in Africa and supposes oneself to be forgotten by all except one’s own congregation, family and a few friends, it is suddenly comforting to find that a group of men and women who are completely unknown to one in a country one has never, alas, visited, appreciate what one is doing or, at all events, trying to do. Missions can do with a little comforting at times. I feel quite unworthy of the fine words in the certificate. However, I will do my best to live up to them. I will remember the members of the Catholic Physicians’ Guild in my daily prayers. Many thanks for your great kindness.

Sister Louise Marie with the Maryknoll Sisters in Wu She, Taiwan tells us—

Our mission station is located in one of the mountain areas in Taiwan. We have a very small dispensary set-up; another sister and I nurse same. Our patients are mostly aborigines — simple hard-working mountain people. We have about 50 patients every morning, some of them come from a great distance, walking for 6 to 8 hours. I will appreciate your prayers so that through our humble efforts, God will come to their hearts and His Kingdom may increase among the aborigines in Taiwan. Thank you very much for bestowing honorary membership upon me. You are remembered in my prayers.

Linacre Quarterly

November, 1966
Sister Maria Fidelis, M.D. addresses us from the Maryknoll Convent in Kowloon, Hong Kong —

To me, the honor of membership in the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds seems another of those beautiful manifestations of the great generosity — the boundless generosity — of our friends and families "back home" in the States. Certainly this honor, in my case at least, is undeserved. Still, it is strong moral support and encouragement to me in the medical work that is still in its infant stages with Maryknoll in Hong Kong.

At present we are preparing for the laying of a cornerstone of our new hospital and out-patient clinic for the refugee poor of Wei Tai Sin, one of the largest resettlement areas on the Kowloon side of Hong Kong. Our patients will come largely from the 100,000 people housed in forty-seven-story tenements right "down the block" from us. This is literally true. If you like people, Hong Kong is the place to come!

After stating the neighborhood population, I am a bit embarrassed to add that our hospital will have an in-patient capacity of 50 beds. No doubt, one of our biggest headaches will be that of deciding just which of the sickest patients shall have priority on those beds. However, this small start is so much better than none, and we do look forward to a gradual expansion of facilities as funds and personnel permit. I pray any of the Guild members are traveling to Hong Kong, please invite them for me to stop for a visit at Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital in Woon Tai Sin.

May I beg your prayers and those of all the other fine Catholic doctors in the States with whom I am privileged to share both the medical profession and the even greater missionary work of the Church. Without your prayers and your strong moral support our efforts would be largely impotent. Once again may I assure you of my deep gratitude, my esteem for all of you, and my frequent prayers for you, your families, your needs.

Mother M. Candida, Provincial, of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, writes us from Paterson, New Jersey.

We all rejoice in the honor bestowed upon our three sister-physicians by the National Federation by awarding them honorary membership. We are proud of these sisters because they do so much for the poor and suffering mankind. We have forwarded Sister Augustina's certificate to her at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Boston, Mass., where at present she is serving her internship and where she will start her residency in surgery soon. Mother Veneranda, our Mother General, will take Sister Hilda's along with her to Formosa, where sister is stationed at St. Joseph's Hospital, Kaohsiung, the only Catholic hospital on the island.

A letter from Sister Maria Corazon, with the post-mark Chung Chung Pak To, Republic of Korea reads:

Mother Mary Colman has advised me of your thoughtful kindness in making me a member of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. Thank you very much.

I am one of the sister-doctors of the Maryknoll congregation. I am a Filipino and took my M.D. at the college of medicine of the University of the Philippines. I have never practiced in the Philippines but have done some work in China, before the Communists took over our small hospital. Then, I was escorted to the border of the Bamboo Curtain, and when I revisited our Motherhouse in 1953, I was reassigned to the Missions, this time to Korea. Right now our work consists of an out-patient clinic in one of the missions located about the 37th Parallel. There is much that could be done as to health education — and for that matter, education in general.

Again, thank you very much and may God bless you!

From Changhua in Taiwan, Free China, Sister Antonia Maria writes:

I have been notified of the honor you have given me in making me an honorary member of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. I want you to know I am very happy and grateful to be included in such an outstanding group. It will be good to receive The Linacre Quarterly regularly — the copies that have come to me from time to time were thoroughly enjoyed.

Clinic work here is very heavy. Just at present we are trying to make plans for a new building to replace the old one that became even more dilapidated after last summer's disastrous flood. I think those who come to us in illness have been very patient and long-suffering with the present accommodations. Now we hope to have something that will give them more comfortable waiting space as well as better and more efficient service.

May our Lady bless you abundantly!

Sister Mary Liguori, C.R.S.M., M.D., recently returned to Bihar, India sends this message:

Mother General has sent to me the much prized certificate of honorary life membership in the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. I am deeply grateful. I am particularly glad to send my new address because I have long been a reader of The Linacre Quarterly and am pleased to be assured of continuing to have it available for the future. After July 1, my address will be:

Dalal Memorial Hospital, Golmuri Postoffice, Jamshedpur, Bihar, India

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Linacre Quarterly

November, 1960
Sister M. Paula Therese at Queen of the World Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri writes from the "home front."

Mother Mary Colman has just written me that the Maryknoll Sisters M.D.'s have been given honorary membership in the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds and that we shall receive subscription to THE LINACRE QUARTERLY. I am very grateful and wish to thank you for this great kindness.

Our hospital here is a project of the late Archbishop O'Hara to bring about integration between negro and white races. We are confronted with moral questions but we are blessed with much good help and people of good will. God bless you. Thank you very much.

From Korea Sister Agnes Therese of the Maryknoll Sisters reports the following:

Word has just reached me here in Korea that you have elected me as an honorary member of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. This brings me great joy and be assured that my poor prayers will daily be with the other members of the federation and their president.

Mother Colman also mentioned that we would receive a subscription to THE LINACRE QUARTERLY and this seems almost an answer to prayer. Several years ago some copies of this came in one of the mission shipments and I enjoyed them so much and found them most helpful. Since that time, I have always wanted to do something about getting a subscription and yet there always seemed to be something that we needed to save our poor Korean patients' lives and for these things it was imperative to beg first. Now we will have the magazine and not have to sacrifice any medicine or other need to receive it. God bless you all.

Clinic here in Pusan is far beyond what we can handle, so if you know anyone interested in getting vast experience in a short time, let us know. Last month we had 1,406 patients who made 5,917 visits to clinic. At present under treatment among these there are, for instance, 102 cases of TB meningitis and more than 100 of bone TB, also. You can name most every disease and we have it — if we have made the diagnosis, that is! We have a 160-bed general hospital nearing completion and beg your prayers for its speedy opening.

Thanks again and God bless you and all our fellow doctors!

Sister M. Mercy, writing from the Maryknoll Sisters' Motherhouse in New York tells us —

It is a great honor to have been admitted to The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. Throughout the years on the mission, I thought often of the Catholic physicians in the United States who had taught, encouraged, inspired and supported me not only in my years of training but in my missionary work. I am sure that you will hear from our Sisters in our far-flung missions, but there will be a delay — so I thank you for them. Their certificates are being sent to them. Be assured of my grateful prayers.

Sister Mary Thomas More of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary writes from the Motherhouse in Framingham Centre, Mass.

I have recently received the honor of life membership in the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. Thank you very much for the wonderful honor it is and also for your consideration of me for it. I am sure my other sister-doctor colleagues were equally well pleased at your thoughtfulness in favor of us.

I was associated with the St. Luke's Guild at the Marquette Medical School while I was there — one of the few medical school Guilds, I believe, and also was given an honorary membership in the Brooklyn Guild through the interest of Dr. George F. Price. So you see I have long been in spirit with you!

Thanks again for your kindness. You can be sure that as all my Marist sisters share in your award to me, the Federation will share in all our prayers and works too.

Mother Mary Coleman, Mother General of the Maryknoll Sisters, wrote this to our president, Dr. Eusebius J. Murphy —

May I express to you my sincere gratitude and to the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, for the honor so graciously bestowed upon our Sister Doctors. Their affiliation through honorary membership with this exemplary group of Catholic physicians, many of whom have been an inspiration to the Sisters during their years of training, will be a source of encouragement to them in their missionary labors. You and the members of the Federation will have a special place in our Sisters' prayers.

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Remember someone with a subscription to THE LINACRE QUARTERLY as a Christmas gift. A remembrance of lasting value. A gift note will be sent in your name.

NOVEMBER, 1960