

May 1964

President's Page

Clement P. Cunningham

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq>

Recommended Citation

Cunningham, Clement P. (1964) "President's Page," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 31 : No. 2 , Article 2.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol31/iss2/2>

President's Page

Today the world witnesses a new springtime in the Church, a spirit of enthusiasm, of *aggiornamento*, which Pope John XXIII initiated when he convened the Second Vatican Council. As Catholics and doctors we are attempting to develop this same spirit of "updating," of renewal, by reviewing the programs of the Federation and expanding them so that the effectiveness of our apostolate may reach all areas where Catholic Physicians' Guilds exist.

To this end, Dr. Fred Taylor has been consulting with the officers on the formation of a new constitution to reflect the needs of a growing and emerging Federation. The discussions have been concerned primarily with administrative changes and will emphasize continued attention toward providing services to the locally organized, autonomous Guilds. The organization considers itself successful when each affiliated Guild has a program of activities that provides solutions to contemporary medico-moral issues, as well as assistance to the individual Catholic physician in becoming a better Catholic as well as a more skilled physician.

The oldest and certainly one of the most important instruments that the Federation has sponsored has been our official journal, *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*. This publication has always been accepted as an authoritative source of knowledge on current medical issues involving moral aspects. In attempting to improve the magazine we offer this issue as an example of what one Guild can do in providing the major articles of one number. We are hopeful that other Guilds having the resources will sponsor future editions.

To implement this "updating" the journal has expanded its editorial board. A faculty member of each of our Catholic medical schools has been invited to join the committee. There will be an evaluation of new departments to be added to the publication.

The Federation has sponsored the annual retreat for physicians and the White Mass. Dr. Gino Papola has provided us with a format of religious activities which offers the suggestion that week-end retreats or days of recollection might utilize co-directors, a priest and a competent Catholic physician, to lead discussion on contemporary medical and religious topics.

In keeping with the liturgical movement, it is possible that an entirely new Votive Mass may be written for public worship for those who serve the sick. We are indebted to our Episcopal Advisor, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph B. Brunini, for this development.

Through our association with medical mission organizations, many of our Guilds are initiating local committees, and members are personally serving in foreign lands where help is urgently needed.

Dr. George Price, chairman of the Medical Student committee, is endeavoring to strengthen communications between the Federation and future Catholic physicians. The significance of this apostolate should be recognized by the fact that our present Federation is composed of some 7,000 members. In the group of physicians completing their senior year of medical school, internship, and residency there is an equal number of Catholic doctors.

The primary objective of the National Federation has been to provide spiritual counsel and moral guidance to the physician so that he may become a more deeply religious person and, in his daily practice of medicine, a better doctor. The vocation of the Catholic layman is two-fold: he should be primarily a good Catholic but he also has an equal responsibility of doing his very best in his profession. With this latter in mind, the National Federation is sponsoring a two-day meeting, November 13-14 that will explore the "apostolate of excellence" for Catholic physicians and Catholic hospitals. The program will be effective only if each Guild will appoint a chairman for Medical Education and Research which will be the theme of the sessions. We are hoping for a large attendance and look to the Guilds to stimulate interest locally.

In the meantime, we look forward to meeting delegates from all the affiliated Guilds in San Francisco, June 24—for the Memorial Mass and the Executive Board Meeting.

CLEMENT P. CUNNINGHAM, M.D.