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Moderator's Message

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The President's Page

The problem of effectiveness of officers and board members is as much the history of organizations and of boards of directors. There is constant need, a
avoiding board and executive service that is empty and noncontributive, or
mostly words and no action, for officers and board members to be conscious
care, selecting those persons capable of working constantly to increase their individual effectiveness.

An organization, to be effective, must be adaptable and responsive to change and need. And those controlling its course must be informed, critical
willing to engage in continuous self-enlightenment, and to learn more and
more about their organization and responsibilities to the realities around them. In this connection the most effective boards are those which continue
attention is paid to the officers and to the composition of boards, appointing persons with special skills and organizational know-how and nominating persons for office with abilities to develop and evolve programs beneficial
to the organization.

Therefore, as I complete my term of office — as president of the National
Federation and as chairman of the Board of Directors — I cannot be too grateful
to those who have worked extremely hard to increase their understanding of the
National Federation and to carry out the tasks of their committee. Nor can
I be too appreciative those who have participated actively and constructively
in recent years in the reorganization of the Federation, nor to those constituting
the organization’s first "official" Board of Directors.

It is satisfying to know that the process of establishing the regional director
was completed this year and that the machinery of regional organization and
readjustment of relationship between the guilds and the National Federation is
a regional basis is starting to proceed under the guidance of regional directors.
Such a scheme is not easy to work out in full detail. And I should ask that officers and members for their cooperation and assistance in realizing that principles of organization conceived on broad national lines must develop according
to regional and local realities. For each guild is an individual and must be
treated as such, as indeed each individual guild member should be regarded.

I should like each Guild and Associate of the National Federation to know
that my wide relationships with our presidents or officers during the past year
have been generally gratifying and cordial. To each, as well as to each officer
and regional director of the National Federation, and to the President-Elect,
Moderator, the Episcopal Advisor’s delegate, the Editor of The Linacre Quarterly, the Executive Secretary, and the consultants I express my heartfelt
thanks and appreciation for the consideration and cooperation shown me during
the year.

FRID M. TAYLOR, M.D.
LINACRE QUARTERLY

Moderator’s Message

"The joys and the hopes, the sorrows and the anxieties of the men of this age, these are the joys and the hopes, the sorrows and the anxieties of the followers of Christ."

As I sit down to write my first "Message" as Moderator of the National Federation, this opening line of Vatican II’s Constitution on The Church in the
Modern World comes immediately to mind.

I know that I should express thanks very early to the Federation’s Board of Directors for nominating me; to Bishop McDonough for appointing me; and to
my own Ordinaries, Bishop Greco, for allowing me to accept this appointment
as your spiritual advisor. This I do most sincerely.

But I come back to my distraction — a fruitful one I hope — with the opening
sentence of the Council regarding the action of the Church in the world. My
first reaction is that the Council’s statement is not true — not true if taken
as a statement of fact.

My second observation is that this introductory sentence of the Constitution
might serve as necessary food for thought for members of the Guilds. What
I mean? Am I missing the point of Vatican II? Naive about the good work
of the Church and of the Federation? Or, just plain pessimistic? What a
humble way to lead off in my chaplaincy!

Let’s back up a bit.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is really setting up an ideal for us children
of the Church by stating through the Council that we must identify with the
men of this age. For a long time we have been in a posture of offense, of combat,
even of spiritual incest, as we cared for our own, protected our own. Let us not judge the past; all this may have been entirely good and necessary.

The fact remains, I believe, that we do not yet identify with the men of this
age — Catholics and those who are not; Americans and those who are not;
Caucasians and those who are not; the rich and those who are not; members of
the Catholic Physicians’ Guilds and those who are not; etc., etc., at least now
is the time for examination, for reform, for renewal.

How perfect are we? How far have we come in attaining the Holy Spirit’s
ideal of full identification with the condition of the men of this age, the whole
human family?

Finally, when Vatican II says, “The Church in the Modern World,” does
this key phrase in the Church today not apply par excellence to Christian and
Catholic doctors? Who else will be Christ, be the Church in the whole, vast
world-wide task of healing the men of this age?

Just as Vatican II (our bishops in the Holy Spirit) explored — and set the
stage for further exploration — of all the possibilities for the Church’s collabora-
tion with all men of good will in every field of human endeavor, so too, quite
readily, it seems to be the task of Christian doctors today to do just that, as
Church in the proper field of medicine. That is my hope for the Federation!

Very Reverend Monsignor Marvin Bordelon

NOVEMBER, 1965