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President's Page

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President's Page

The officers of the National Federation take this opportunity to thank the Guild members for the high honor they have conferred upon us in our election to serve them and to guide the affairs of our organization for the coming year. May I express our sincere promise to devote ourselves to accomplish the high aims and goals that were first enunciated some 32 years ago.

A brief historical perspective may help to set in focus some of our plans for the future. In 1932, the Brooklyn Guild, under the farsighted leadership of Drs. Dick Rendich and John Masterson, conceived the idea of a Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. It survived mainly through the personal devotion and sacrifices of Dr. Masterson.

On August 3, 1945, an agreement was signed by the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada with the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds for mutual help "to provide spiritual counsel and moral guidance to the physician so that he may be a more deeply religious person and in his daily practice of medicine a better doctor."

In 1957, the Silver Jubilee Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria under the most capable chairmanship of Dr. Dan Mulvihill and in 1960, the Century Dinner celebrating the 100th Guild to become affiliated with the Federation, were memorable occasions.

Dr. Clem Cunningham has just completed an outstanding term of office. The Federation has adopted a new Constitution modified with a view to expanding local and national programs. The country has been divided into eight regional areas to facilitate communication and concerted action among geographically neighboring Guilds.

We co-sponsored with the Family Life Bureau of N.C.W.C. the International Symposium on Rhythm at Washington, D. C., October 20-24 and the Conference on Medical Education and Research in collaboration with the Catholic Hospital Association at New Orleans, November 13-14. Reverend Kenneth P. MacKinnon has succeeded our late beloved "Father Luke," Rt. Rev. Msgr. Donald A. McGowan, and is energetically catalyzing the efforts of local Guild Moderators.

We are most fortunate to have as our Episcopal Advisor, Most Reverend Joseph B. Brunini, Auxiliary Bishop of Natchez-Jackson, who will be an inspiring and helpful force in channeling our programs to cooperate with the aims of the American Bishops. Very Reverend Msgr. Harrold A. Murray, Director of the Bureau of Health and Hospitals of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, will be his official delegate and already has been very helpful in keeping us aware of programs of national concern to all physicians.

The initial purposes of the Catholic Physicians' Guilds were directed at increasing the Catholic physician's personal sanctity and scientific excellence in the daily duties of his medical life. In our generation, we must be concerned with an awareness of and a dedication to our moral, social and medical obligations to our fellow-Americans, indeed to the entire world. No longer can we see ourselves as individual doctors working for our limited personal goals but rather as a potent organization that must play its role in the programs for the health and well-being of all peoples.

THE LINACRE QUARTERLY can and does publicize our many projects and commitments. Under dynamic editorial leadership, we have experienced a resurgence and expansion that will surely grow. But it is only by the time consuming and painful personal efforts of our hands and minds and wills that we can accomplish the aims about which we write.

The officers and myself sincerely ask your prayers and urgently need your diligent and active cooperation in the ensuing year to reap this rich harvest—*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!*

GERARD P. J. GRIFFIN, M.D.