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President's Page

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The programs of the Federation are developing very successfully under the capable direction of our various chairman. Several coming events must be brought to your attention for your generous cooperation. First is the AM.A.'s annual meeting in New York City, June 20-25. There are two very worthwhile programs that relate to the field of medicine and religion. Our Annual Mass will be held on Wednesday, June 23 at St. Patrick's Cathedral at 8:00 a.m. You have been notified of this in Guilds in Action. The four Cardinal Spellman will celebrate the Mass. Breakfast at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel will follow at 9:30 a.m. Francis J. Braceland, M.D. will deliver the first paper. Gerald Kelly, S.J., Memorial Lecture. Dr. Braceland is internationally recognized for his extensive writings and lectures in the field of psychiatry and its moral implications. Reservation forms for the Breakfast is to be found elsewhere in this issue.

The AM.A. is devoting Sunday evening, June 20, to the general theme of Medicine and Religion. Reverend Dr. Paul B. McCleave, Director of the AM.A. Department of Medicine and Religion has arranged a most thoughtful and stimulating program. (An article by Dr. McCleave appears in this issue.) The initial program of this department was presented in 1963 when those who attended and the sessions presentations made by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen and Dr. Edward Rynearson, introduced this concept of religious and medical cooperation, so vital to the complete care of patients. The New York physicians, as hosts, are making determined efforts to bring together the clergy and the doctors as a team effort for our mutual education and dialogue. It seems a legal step for each Guild to participate with them in this exchange.

Even though schedules may be heavy, the Federation hopes to plan a “Day at the Fair” and especially some program at the Vatican Pavilion. Please take a firm resolution to participate. And finally, we are very thankful for the increasing involvement of the Guild in the Mission Activities Program. Dr. Joe Grady and most of the officers were in Chiapas for the CICOP (Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program) meeting in January. Our welcome from the Latin-American Bishops and the informed lay advisors was heart-warming and humbling. The devotion of these truly poor and humble servants of God who face the massive problems of socio-economic, cultural and medical revolutions in the countries of Latin-America could only emphasize how meager are our present efforts. Dr. Grady will be informing us of the plans for deeper participation of each Guild physician. The very core of our Christian mission is medicine and it is in the medical apostolate that we can fulfill our Christian apostolic mission of caring for our neighbor. We must do this well in today’s context of our obligations and duties. Let our daily involvements so shape our world that we will be molded in return by the goal we strive to attain.

Gerard P. J. Griffin, M.D.

The Moderator’s Message...

NEW LEAVEN — NEW MENTALITY

In the early years of this century President Woodrow Wilson wrote: “The educated man is to be discovered by his point of view, by the temper of his mind, by his attitude toward life, and his fair way of thinking.” One could as easily say that these qualities discover the Christian mind. Spring, the Resurrection, the Council, all remind us of the “new leaven,” the new mind which should characterize the Christian of the present time.

One of the Bishops from Latin America stressed the need for a “change of mentality” when he spoke at the CICOP meeting in Chicago. A great social revolution is taking place in Latin America, largely under Christian leadership. This represents a distinct change in thinking towards the south. North American thinking must keep pace with the change.

Latin America is more than just Latin America. It is a complex of many cultures, races, and languages; differing in economic development, political systems, and traditions; comprising many independent countries, proud of their national heritage. Their problems are diverse as well. We must grow in the awareness that, in offering our assistance in solving these problems, we are faced with particular problems, in specific countries, of Latin America.

Along with this growing awareness of individual countries in Latin America is the need to look beyond them as “developing areas” and see them as people — people who are in need of the opportunity to fight poverty, ignorance, and despair; people with the right to receive our interest and our aid, and the right to apply these aids to their own problems, in their own way. And our greatest investment in Latin American countries should be people, North American people. Why? As one South American priest gave expression: “We need you because we need other humans to solve human problems.” Our Peace Corps men and the doctors involved in the Latin American Mission Apostolate are filling this need — they are our most effective ambassadors, for they lay the groundwork for the most essential change of mentality, understanding and mutual respect among the people of the Americas.

One other thought on change came out of the Chicago meeting, and very pertinent to the thinking of North Americans. It was the considered judgment of the Christian leadership of Latin America that the greatest threat to the Christian social revolution was “anti-communism.” Latin American problems are of long standing and go very deep. Necessary reforms often “seem” too radical to the North American mentality, but so did the ideas of Thomas Jefferson, as expressed in 1776. Destroy the Christian leadership with the smear of Communism, and we will drive the helpless and hopeless, masses into the hands of Communism. We must trust the Christian leadership to the south, for they know best both the problem and the solution.

A prominent doctor from the Midwest went to several Latin American countries last summer with the most acceptable greeting imaginable. To the doctors of those countries he said: “I have come to learn.” And he did. He learned a great deal about the doctors and the people of Latin America, and about them. He then gathered valuable research material in his field of specialization; they learned something about medicine in North America. But the communication process was opened by a highly educated North American with a new outlook: “I have come to learn.”

Along with the new spiritual leaven of this season of Resurrection, may the Triumphant Christ instill in us the new mentality so needed to understand and meet the needs of our time.

Rev. Kenneth P. MacKinnon

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