Today more than at any other time in recent history, we face general attitudes that seem to attack the very foundation of life as we once knew it. In the name of individual liberty of conscience there has been born a questioning or a disregard of any form of restraint. Parental authority is being flouted and the "old fashioned" idea of obedience is ridiculed. Higher education finds the "freedoms" of students more important than excellence in curriculum or faculty. On every side there is rebellion against the existing order, not always to the benefit of society.

This is not the despairing cry of an ultraconservative unwilling to face today's challenge. It is rather the recognition of an increasing mentality that refuses to admit even a God-given moral code, if it interferes with personal interests.

A representative Catholic doctor in the midst of modern confused and confusing thought must be possessed of the highest ethical and moral integrity. He must be a man of balance, well enough informed to cope with the loose thinking and false conclusions that would lessen such integrity. He must be supported in his professional thinking and conduct by an encouraging association with others who share his ideas and ideals. He must, in private life and in public practice, be that pervading community influence about which Vatican Council II speaks in its Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity.

The Catholic Physicians' Guild seeks to build up a membership of just such representative men. The impact of this organization on the local scene is beyond description. The good done in the cause of Christ's Church can be evaluated only in eternity. May the Guild continue to flourish and may it reach its highest objectives.

The blessing of all the Bishops in whose dioceses it is organized is with you and your work.

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

August, 1966