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Silver Jubilee Observance

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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A SILVER JUBILEE celebration is one to be recorded, not without some measure of satisfaction at survival but because it is hope for the future.

Shortly before 9 o’clock on the morning of June 5, nurses and students, together with interns from Catholic hospitals in the New York area formed an impressive line at the entrance of St. Patrick’s Cathedral to assist at the Pontifical Mass that was to begin the Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds’ commemoration of its twenty-fifth year. His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, was celebrant of the Mass. It was offered at the high altar and the floral motif of crimson gladiola and silver leaf enhanced its beauty which will be a colorful remembrance. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognini, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, was in the sanctuary.

Also present were Rt. Rev. Msgr. Donald A. McGowan, the Federation moderator, Reverend John J. Flanagan, S.J. editor of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY, and other Monsignori and priests. Reverend Ignatius W. Cox, S.J., of Fordham University, first moderator of the Federation gave the Jubilee sermon. A gathering of nearly a thousand physicians, their families and friends assisted at the Mass.

The evening festivities were held at the Waldorf-Astoria. A reception at 6:30 was followed by the banquet held in the Grand Ballroom. Three tiers formed the beautifully decorated dais, graced by distinguished members of the hierarchy, medical profession, and education. Cardinal Spellman gave the invocation and presided on the dais. Some 1,400 physicians, their wives, and friends attended the dinner that will certainly be long remembered for its thoughtful planning and excellent detail.

General Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine Ambassador to the United States and Delegate to the Security Council, United Nations, gave the principal address. From delightful anecdotes to a most serious discourse on the international situation, the General held his audience in rapt attention and thoughtful consideration of our world-neighbors.

Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York welcomed the physicians and congratulated the Federation on its anniversary.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Donald A. McGowan gave the benediction.

Metropolitan Opera star, Thomas Hayward, tenor, offered musical selections and Stanley Melba and the Cotillion Room Orchestra entertained during dinner and for dancing which followed. The popular radio and TV singers, Les Paul and Mary Ford, delighted the guests with a generous number of songs.

The success of the occasion is acknowledged. Guests will long be vocal in their praise of the arrangements. Many friends gave their financial support and others labored tirelessly to perform the many tasks that such an undertaking demands. More than two hundred Catholic hospitals helped to sponsor the celebration.

The Chairman of the Silver Jubilee celebration and motivating influence was Dr. Daniel A. Mulvihill of the New York Guild. Months of planning, forming committees, holding meetings, answering correspondence—nothing was too much for Dr. Mulvihill. There would be no counting the number of hours he devoted to the details which demanded so much attention. To him and his co-chairmen and committees and, of course, to Mrs. Mulvihill whose devoted concern, too, was so evident in the plans, all manner of praise is due. The Federation is most grateful and with the observance on June 5, 1957 of this milestone in its history, it is hoped that the future will be one of sturdy growth and lasting strength.

A message of congratulations to the Federation from His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, appears elsewhere in this issue of the journal.