

8-1-1951

## Report of Annual Meeting of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds (1951)

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

Follow this and additional works at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/lmq>

 Part of the [Ethics and Political Philosophy Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guilds (1951) "Report of Annual Meeting of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds (1951)," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 18 : No. 3 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/lmq/vol18/iss3/5>

## REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILDS (1951)

On June 13 in Atlantic City, the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds held an annual business meeting and a luncheon meeting for Catholic Physicians.

### Business Meeting

The annual business meeting was called to order at 10:00 a. m. in the Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City. In the absence of the President, Dr. John W. Spellman, Dr. William P. Chester, Vice-President, presided. The opening prayer was said by the Moderator, Rev. Donald A. McGowan. The following is a list of official delegates present:

Bronx Guild—DR. EUSEBIUS J. MURPHY  
 Brooklyn Guild—DR. GEO. GRAHAM  
 Boston Guild—DR. WM. J. EGAN  
 Buffalo Guild—DR. EDWARD DRISCOLL  
 Cleveland Guild—DR. PAUL A. MIELCAREK  
 Detroit Guild—DR. WILLIAM P. CHESTER  
 New Orleans Guild—DR. JEROME LANDRY  
 Omaha Guild—DR. ARTHUR J. OFFERMAN  
 Philadelphia Guild—DR. J. TOLAND  
 St. Louis Guild—DR. D. L. SEXTON  
 Wilmington Guild—DR. J. J. GRAFF

### Guilds Not Represented

Minneapolis Guild	Sacramento Guild
New Bedford Guild	Sioux City Guild

Also present at this meeting were the Moderator, Rev. Donald A. McGowan, the Rev. Ignatius Cox, S.J., first Moderator of the Federation, Rev. John J. Flanagan, S.J., Editor of LINACRE QUARTERLY, and Mr. M. R. Kneiff, Executive Secretary of the Federation.

### Activities of Central Office

The first item of business was a report from St. Luke's Guild of Boston which asked the delegates to consider the development of a more business-like central office, the position of the President of the Federation, the sale of LINACRE QUARTERLY to non-members, the Incorporation, the publication of an account of the

Federation's financial situation, more regular business meetings, reports of activities of the Guilds in LINACRE QUARTERLY and wider exchange of ideas, programs, etc. Dr. Egan then mentioned the activities of the Boston Guild which are reported separately in the August issue of LINACRE QUARTERLY.

It was agreed that more activity should be developed at the central office. It was pointed out that some improvement had been made in the last 18 months with the addition of a part-time secretary at the office in St. Louis. There was a long discussion on the responsibility of the central office to take leadership and offer guidance when important questions of national scope arose. Father McGowan pointed out that in the past there had been a desire to allow the maximum amount of autonomy to local Guilds and that they needed to be guided by their local Ordinaries, in handling problems of a religious nature and that this would be true when a Guild took a stand as a Catholic group on a controversial issue.

Dr. Graham pointed out that Catholic Action should arise with the laity and be supervised or moderated by the Clergy.

Dr. Yeip was of the opinion that the central office should take more leadership, but also keep clear of political issues. Father Flanagan stated that the activities of the Federation suffered to a certain extent because many of its activities emanated from the office of another Association, thus losing the benefit of concentrated attention. It was his opinion that the desired results would not be obtained until the Federation grew large enough to afford a full-time secretary working under the direction of Father McGowan.

Dr. Egan stressed the idea of Catholic Action and pointed out the need for this in medical practice. Father Cox praised the work of the Boston Guild and referred to the controversy over birth control in Atlantic City many years ago and the influence of a small group of Catholic physicians at that time. At the end of this discussion, a resolution was presented and passed that the Executive Board of the Federation shall be the policy making body of the Federation, provided that the application of such policies in a particular diocese be subject to the approval of proper ecclesiastical authority.

### Canadian Guilds

Father Flanagan reported that two requests had been received from Guilds in Canada. A motion was made and passed to amend Article V on membership so that Guilds in Canada could be affiliated.

### Membership in Local Guilds

The delegates re-iterated a previous decision that local Guilds should enjoy freedom in admitting dentists and pharmacists to membership.

### Affiliation Fees

To clarify some misunderstanding, it was agreed that each Guild should pay annually the affiliation fee of \$25.00.

Mr. M. R. Kneifl presented the financial report which was approved by the delegates. The report is to be published in LINACRE QUARTERLY.

### LINACRE QUARTERLY

Father Flanagan reported on the increased circulation of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY through a drive for individual subscriptions. In two years the circulation has grown from 1,300 to 3,500. This drive for subscriptions has been under the direction of Miss Jean Read of the St. Louis Office.

Father Flanagan also reported that it is difficult to obtain editorial material. He suggested that an Editorial Board be appointed to help. The motion was made and passed that Father Flanagan be authorized to appoint an Editorial Board.

It was also strongly urged that more news from local Guilds be reported in LINACRE QUARTERLY. It was suggested that it be mandatory for each Guild to report each of its meetings to LINACRE QUARTERLY.

### Speakers' List

The central office reported that in response to requests for qualified speakers, a partial list had been drawn up. Father Carney mentioned that some of the moralists in the Catholic Theological Society would be qualified to write or speak.

### International Congress of Catholic Physicians

Father McGowan reported that the International Congress of Catholic doctors was to be held in Paris during the third or fourth week in July. Since he was being sent by The Catholic Hospital Association to an International Hospital Convention in Brussels, he hoped to be able to attend the Congress in Paris.

### Health Insurance

Father Flanagan reported that some requests have come to the office for a statement of the official position of the Federation on compulsory health insurance. No such action has ever been taken. Dr. Offerman called attention to the brochure A VOLUNTARY APPROACH TO A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM issued jointly by the Conference of Catholic Charities, the Bureau of Health and Hospitals of the N.C.W.C., and the Catholic Hospital Association. It was recommended that copies of this be sent to local Guilds. It was hoped that after each Guild had expressed an opinion, a Federation policy could be established. Here again there was expressed a desire for guidance. It was pointed out that most medical problems are national problems and that Federation action is necessary.

\* \* \* \*

In the closing minutes of the meeting, a telegram from Dr. John B. O'Toole, Jr. immediate past-president of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of New Bedford, Mass. was read commending the work of Father Garesche and recommending a scholarship fund for the medical education of young members of the Catholic Medical Mission Board. No action was taken.

Dr. Offerman of Omaha also presented a resolution concerning the support of Catholic medical schools. Dr. Murphy reported on student Guilds.

It was necessary for the meeting to adjourn so that the luncheon meeting could begin.

### Luncheon Meeting

This annual meeting is sponsored by The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds for all Catholic doctors who wish to attend.

Ninety-three people attended this year. The luncheon was served in the Claridge Hotel. Dr. Wm. P. Chester presided. The speaker for the occasion was Rev. Francis Connell, C.S.S.R., Dean of the School of Theology of the Catholic University of America. Father Connell is an eminent authority and writer in the field of moral theology and spoke on the basic religious principles which must guide the Catholic physician in the practice of medicine.

Father Donald A. McGowan, Moderator of the Federation, spoke briefly on the activities of the Federation and of the plans for the future. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee which was appointed during the business meeting reported and presented the following slate of officers:

- President*—WILLIAM P. CHESTER, M.D.  
Detroit, Mich.
- First Vice-President*—JOSEPH J. TOLAND, JR. M.D.  
Philadelphia, Pa.
- Second Vice-President*—MELVIN F. YEIP, M.D.  
Cleveland, Ohio
- Third Vice-President*—WILLIAM J. EGAN, M.D.  
Newton Highlands, Mass.
- Secretary*—ARTHUR J. OFFERMAN, M.D.  
Omaha, Nebr.
- Treasurer*—DANIEL L. SEXTON, M.D.  
St. Louis, Mo.

This slate was unanimously elected.

The meeting adjourned at 2 o'clock.