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Guild Notes

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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Guild Notes

The Federation welcomes the affiliation of the Denver Guild. Thus, another group is added to the roster. Report of an active program bids well for the future, and we extend best wishes for success.

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Dr. Narcisse Thiberge sends a most edifying report of the New Orleans Guild activities. During the Crystal Anniversary of this group it was thought to be of interest to review the progress made under the skillful direction of their organizer, the Most Reverend Archbishop Joseph Francis Rummel, who has never ceased to take deep interest in the group's welfare and personally administered Holy Communion to each member at Easter, officiated at Mass and spoke at the annual breakfast at the Notre Dame Seminary each year.

Very Reverend Daniel O'Meara, His Excellency's Representative, by his unflinching devotion has been responsible in great part for the doubling of the membership in ten years and now at the fifteenth year, the Guild is still showing signs of increase. As the old members have passed to their reward, the ranks have been filled by young members from the Newman Club of the L. S. U. The assistance given by L. S. U. has been acknowledged by the Guild because a top Officer of the L. S. U. Professors, Edgar Hull, M. D., was selected to preside for 1952-53.

The following gives, briefly, the extent of activities:

1. Lectures on Ethics and Moral Aspects of various medical problems.
2. Lectures on Lourdes, on Missions, on Welfare; and now a series on Integration of the Physician with his Patient, his Practice and his Religion.
3. Entertaining visitors from the Paris Guilds, from Foreign Missions and Welfare Workers.
4. Assisting the Poor of the city and helping the Board of Health with Catholic Schools.
5. Supplying articles to the *Linacre Quarterly* which were published at intervals.

Dr. Thiberge submitted this report in the hope that it will encourage each of the various Guilds to tell of their activities and serve to expand their field of labor for the common good and the improvement of the individual member.

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"The Guild is growing well in Omaha, and a good response is made at each meeting," reports Dr. Joseph F. Gross, new Director of the group. "We have four meetings a year, a Communion breakfast with a talk following the breakfast, and the average attendance is between 50 and 65 members. It is hoped soon to have an average attendance of approximately 75 members or more at each of these meetings. The new officers are: Dr. Joseph F. Gross, Director; Dr. Bernard Kennedy, Vice Director; Dr. Robert Fitz-

gibbons, Treasurer; Dr. Richard Egan, Secretary. The Executive Council consists of all of the elected officers, plus Dr. Maurice Grier and Dr. Harry H. McCarthy."

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More than one hundred doctors of the Detroit Chapter of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds were privileged to hear Rev. John M. Ford, S. J. professor of Moral Theology at Weston College and Ethics at Boston College, on Laetare Sunday, March 23, 1952, at the annual Detroit Chapter Spring Communion Breakfast at Sacred Heart Seminary. Father Ford's subject for discussion was "Alcoholism." Father Ford stated that there are more than four million alcoholics in the United States, representing every phase of society, that are afflicted with a triple disease infecting body, mind and soul. He added that to his knowledge the tenets of A. A. are compatible with the Catholic religion. He also stated that this organization is responsible more than any other for rehabilitating alcohol addicts and had produced marked results.

Father Ford is known for his work and writings in the field of alcoholism. He is a member of the Massachusetts Governor's Committee on alcoholism. He is also a lecturer at Yale University's Summer Institute dealing with the problem of alcoholism and alcoholics.

He pointed out that, "Drunkenness and alcoholism are not one and the same thing. Alcoholism is excessive drinking, the kind that gets a person into other serious trouble and generally cannot be broken without outside help." "In addition, from the Catholic viewpoint, daily prayer and frequent reception of the Sacraments are necessary for the heart to be touched by the Grace of God," he advised.

Rev. Kenneth MacKinnon, Chaplain of the Chapter, offered Holy Mass and preached the sermon at an impressive ceremony, assisted by the Seminary Choir and attended by all the Seminarians.

New officers for the year are: President, James M. Kennary, M. D.; President-elect, James J. Lentine, M. D.; Treasurer, Charles Pelletier, M. D.; Secretary, Eugene Quigley, M. D. The Retiring President, N. D. McGlaughlin, M. D., is Retreat Chairman.

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The Federation welcomes its first Canadian Guild to membership. Affiliation took place on March 10, 1952. "The Guild of St. Luke of Calgary" in Alberta has been organized since June 1951 and a report of activities indicates a full program. Mass is celebrated monthly by the Guild Chaplain in the Chapel of the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. Discussion meetings are held every month. Subjects that have been discussed to date are: Ordinary and Extraordinary Means of Preserving Life; The Position of Sterilization of Mental Defectives in Alberta; Life of Rene Goupil, Jesuit Martyr, and Life and Times of Thomas Linacre. On October 18, the Feast of St. Luke, one of the doctors invited the members and their wives to dinner at his home.

The Federation extends best wishes to our Canadian neighbors and hopes that a prosperous future is ahead.