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Thirty Years of a Holy Experiment

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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THIRTY YEARS OF A HOLY EXPERIMENT . . .

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen called Mother Anna Dengel, M.D., foundress of the Medical Mission Sisters "one of the truly great women of the world." Speaking before an audience of more than 2,000, the American national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith spoke on medicine in relation to the missions. The Bishop traced briefly the history of medical mission work from the time of Saint Luke until the present. He pointed out that it was possible to prove that Saint Luke was a physician just from the Greek words he used in the writing of the Gospel. The dignity and value of the human body was also stressed. Bishop Sheen praised the medical apostolate of which Mother Dengel is the pioneer. The noted speaker said that "Mother Dengel has done more for the missions than any woman alive."

The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds of the United States presented Mother Dengel with a citation on the occasion of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of her congregation.

The citation was presented to Mother Dengel by Monsignor Philip E. Donahue, delegate of Archbishop John O'Hara of Philadelphia. It was the first time in the history of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds that the organization presented such an award. The citation appears on the following page.

Mother Anna Dengel thanked the assembled audience for coming to the event since she said "it demonstrates that you are interested in how the other half of the world lives." She expressed the desire that she and the Medical Mission Sisters might live up to the ideal suggested by Bishop Sheen and the citation. Mother Dengel also thanked the Physicians' Guilds, her compatriots as she called them, for accepting her into their midst and for the recognition given to medical mission activities.

The Medical Mission Sisters are an international congregation devoted to the care of the sick in the missions. Sisters who are professionally trained staff hospitals and clinics in India, Pakistan, Africa, Indonesia and North and South America. General headquarters for the congregation are in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Joseph Toland, immediate past president of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, is president of Men of the Medical Missions which group sponsored the anniversary celebration.

1925-1955

Thirty Glorious Years

Whereas
Mother Anna Dengel, M.D.

had the dauntless courage to pioneer in an uncultivated area of the Lord's vineyard, and

Whereas, her zeal bore fruit in the founding of the
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

the first order of its kind in the Church's history, and
Whereas, Mother Dengel's work is internationally and rightfully recognized as a modern spiritual medical crusade, and
Whereas, this incredible accomplishment would be only a pious dream but for the profound faith and love that gave spiritual substance to the extraordinary natural talents of Mother Dengel and her unerring sense of values both human and divine.

Be it resolved that
The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds of the United States

salutes with prayerful pride a professional equal and a spiritual superior;
May Mother Dengel and her Sisters of the Medical Missions continue their magnificent work of the past thirty years under the guidance and protection of God and His Blessed Mother.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. C. McGowan *Robin S. Giffin M.D.*
Moderator *President*