

8-1-1955

## Federation Board Session: Minutes of the June Meeting - 1955

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 (1955) "Federation Board Session: Minutes of the June Meeting - 1955," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 22 : No. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/lmq/vol22/iss3/7>

## Minutes of the June Meeting — 1955

The June meeting of the Executive Board of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 8, 1955, at Hotel Dennis. The following were present:

- J. J. Toland, Jr., M.D., Pres.
- M. F. Yeip, M.D., 1st Vice-Pres., also representing the Cleveland Guild
- Wm. J. Egan, M.D., 2nd Vice-Pres., also representing the Boston Guild
- D. L. Sexton, M.D., 3rd Vice-Pres., also representing the St. Louis Guild
- J. J. Graff, M.D., Sec'y., also representing the Wilmington Guild
- Rt. Rev. Msgr. D. A. McGowan, Moderator
- A. Reding, M.D., Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Guild
- V. J. Mulaire, M.D., Stamford, Conn. Guild
- E. J. Murphy, M.D., Bronx Guild
- J. T. Geddis, M.D., Bronx Guild
- N. MacNeill, M.D., Philadelphia Guild
- C. P. Cunningham, M.D., Rock Island, Ill. Guild
- H. L. Bastien, M.D., Northern Virginia Guild
- F. J. Sullivan, M.D., Fall River, Mass. Guild
- S. J. Carnazzo, M.D., Omaha, Neb. Guild
- J. Satory, M.D., LaCrosse, Wis. Guild
- J. Masterson, M.D., Brooklyn, N. Y. Guild

- Rev. Henry M. Gallagher, Canton, Ohio Guild
- Rev. J. J. Flanagan, S.J., Editor, THE LINACRE QUARTERLY
- Wm. P. Chester, M.D., Detroit Past Pres. of Federation
- Wm. J. Fordrung, M.D., Scarsdale, N. Y.
- M. R. Kneifl, Exec. Sec'y.
- Jean Read, Asst. Sec'y.

\* \* \*

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

### President's Report

In his report the President commended the increase of subscriptions to LINACRE QUARTERLY which now total 6,655 and the increase in Guild membership to the Federation. Since the last Board meeting held in November 1954, ten more groups have been affiliated: Dayton, Ohio; El Paso, Texas; Stamford, Conn.; Eugene, Ore.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Westchester, N. Y.; Pittsburgh, Penn.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Utica, N. Y., and St. Cloud, Minn.

### Puerto Rico Affiliation

Affiliation of a Catholic Physicians' Guild in Puerto Rico was discussed. A Guild is being formed there where problems regarding planned parenthood and birth control are a cause of great concern. The moral support of the Federation has been promised.

### St. Luke's Day—White Mass

Guilds reported on their observance of St. Luke's Day and the "White Mass" adopted by the Federation. The Bronx Guild ad-

vised that this Mass for the Catholic doctors in the Archdiocese of New York has been sanctioned by Cardinal Spellman. In Cleveland the Mass was celebrated in the Cathedral. Catholic doctors, their families and friends were invited. The Mass for the Boston Archdiocese was observed at Boston College last year. It will be repeated this year and Archbishop Cushing will be celebrant. The Detroit Guild advised that the occasion will be observed in three hospitals in that area this year.

News releases regarding this year's "White Mass" will be sent out in advance of October 18 for national and local publications.

### Bulletin "Guilds in Focus"

The news bulletin "Guilds in Focus" is sent to the officers and presidents of affiliated Guilds. Representatives present were urged to have news of activities and information they would like to have circulated sent in to the Federation office to insure continued publication. The bulletin is circulated in the months that LINACRE QUARTERLY is not published. The venture received warm and enthusiastic approval of all present.

### Financial Aid to Catholic Medical Schools

The committee appointed to investigate and report on the financial status of Catholic medical schools presented resolutions to sponsor definite plans for support. The Chairman, Dr. S. J. Carnazzo of the Omaha Guild, gave a fine report. This report will be prepared for presentation at the next Conference of Bishops to be held in Washington, D.C. in November. Guilds will be furnished with data to inform their respective Bishops of conditions and the need

for assistance. Several plans were submitted which will be referred to the Executive Committee of the Federation Board for study to be presented with the resolutions.

### Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee — Dr. Wm. Chester of Detroit, Dr. N. MacNeill of Philadelphia, and Dr. J. Masterson of Brooklyn—presented the following nominees for office: Dr. Melvin F. Yeip, Cleveland, President; Dr. W. J. Egan, Boston, 1st Vice-President; Dr. D. L. Sexton, 2nd Vice-President; Dr. E. Murphy, Bronx, N. Y., 3rd Vice-President; Dr. J. J. Graff, Wilmington, Del., Secy., and Dr. L. D. Cassidy, St. Louis, Mo., Treasurer. On motion duly made and seconded the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot and the above were elected for a term of office 1955-1957.

A hearty and prayerful vote of thanks was accorded Dr. Joseph J. Toland, Jr., retiring president, for his interest and conscientious efforts during his term of office. Dr. Melvin Yeip acknowledged election and expressed hope to continue the aims of the Federation with special emphasis on the further distribution of LINACRE QUARTERLY, the official journal of the Federation. It is his request that Guilds secure, if possible, and furnish the central office with names and addresses of all Catholic physicians in their respective dioceses. The names furnished would be other than those of Guild members.

### Annual Meeting

Discussion ensued with regard to convening one Executive Board meeting yearly instead of two. Time is brief for the June meeting during the A.M.A. sessions and it

was suggested that this meeting might possibly be eliminated in favor of a two-day winter session. The Executive Committee will consider the proposal and report at the winter meeting to be held in St. Louis, Mo., December 10 and 11 tentative dates.

#### Exhibit at A. M. A. Convention

It was recommended that the Federation make arrangements for an educational exhibit booth at the next American Medical Association Convention. Catholic literature related to health care would be distributed and members of the Federation would be on hand for consultation. Details will be considered by the Executive Committee and definite proposals at the winter meeting.

#### News Release

Vigorous exception in the form of a release to the press was made, answering the American Society for the Study of Sterility, meeting in Atlantic City with the A.M.A., whose statement that "artificial insemination is a completely ethical, moral and desirable form of medical therapy" appeared in the June 4 *New York Times*. Copy of the release follows:

"Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 11 — Officers and delegates at the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds annual meeting here took vigorous exception to a recent statement of the American Society for the Study of Sterility, which held that artificial insemination is a 'completely ethical, moral and desirable form of medical therapy.'

"Disagreeing with the statement on every count, the Catholic doctors said artificial insemination is a direct violation of the rights, privileges and duties of married life and, therefore, an attack on

the very stability of society itself, which they as doctors are pledged to support. This fact alone, the Catholic doctors said, would make the practice unethical and immoral, and hence reprehensible rather than a 'desirable form of medical therapy.'

"The findings of the American Society for the Study of Sterility were made by a group of 500 medical doctors.

"The Catholic physicians contended that 'mutual consent' had no decisive bearing on the ethics and morality involved. The Catholic doctors said that they wondered seriously if the promoters and supporters of the 'test tube' baby idea have weighed the long range psychosomatic and legal implications of their crusade.

"The Catholic physicians noted that an Illinois Superior Court judge in a decision in a 'test tube' baby case said that 'donor insemination, with or without the consent of the husband, is contrary to public policy and good morals and constitutes adultery on the part of the mother.' The judge also said: 'A child so conceived is not a child born in wedlock and is therefore illegitimate.'"

#### World Health Organization

Msgr. McGowan described World Health Organization (WHO) and its activities, advocating watchful attention to its services in foreign lands. Apropos health and those engaged in the practice of medicine Msgr. McGowan noted that the present Pope has spoken more often and more informatively than preceding Pontiffs. The Holy Father's talks on health and other world-wide interests are reported in the quarterly publication "The POPE

Speaks." The subscription address is 3622 12th St. N.E., Washington 17, D.C. and it is highly recommended to Catholic physicians and others allied with health activities.

#### International Congress of Catholic Doctors

Dr. Wm. Chester, representing the Federation at the International Congress of Catholic doctors in Dublin in 1954, gave a resume of the meetings. He advised that the next Congress is scheduled for Holland in 1957 and urged those present to attend if at all possible. The group would be interested in coming to the United States.

#### LINACRE QUARTERLY

Father J. J. Flanagan, S.J., Editor of LINACRE QUARTERLY, commenting on the journal urged that more articles be written by doctors to make the issues truly represent Guild members. Subscriptions have increased during the last few years from some 2,000 to the current issue's mailing of 6,655. Some measure of this increase can be attributed to the growth in the Guild movement with the number mounting from sixteen to the present forty-five in the same period. Medical school subscriptions for students is another appreciable amount of the total, various Guilds generously defraying the expense, at a bulk rate of \$1.00 for each subscription when ten or more are sent to one address for distribution. With Guilds furnishing the central office with the names and addresses of more doctors, continued effort will be made to increase the present total.

#### Reports of Guilds

Representatives reported regarding the activities of their respective

Guilds. These will be treated in the bulletin "Guilds in Focus" from time to time.

#### Luncheon Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon. Luncheon for Catholic doctors, wives and friends attending the A.M.A. followed at 12:30 p.m. Speaker for the occasion was Dr. Charles Hufnagel, director of experimental surgery at Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, D.C. "The Responsibility of the Catholic Physician in Research" was the title of Dr. Hufnagel's address to the gathering; high-lights are reported as follows:

"Research is fundamentally the search for new knowledge and/or the deduction or synthesis of new conclusions from known facts. It is upon the interest in research that the future of medicine and the health and welfare of the nation and the world rests. Catholic physicians and educators must assume a position of leadership if the Catholic physicians of tomorrow are to be provided with the educational facilities and stimulus with a Catholic background, understanding the problems of patients as individuals and fellow creatures of God. The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake has its merits but it is more laudable when it is directed with correlation to a known good.

We must strive to inspire the young physician to desire to participate in research activities and to point out to him the intellectual satisfaction which can be his reward. He must be given the benefit of disciplined training and be filled with a zeal to *want* to work, not be compelled. He must feel there are not enough hours in a day to do everything that must be

done. This must be based fundamentally on an overwhelming desire to help his fellowmen and not for any self-centered motive.

To arouse interest it should really be done in pre-medical education. There must be discipline in study and precision in work. In the medical school there is contact with basic research followed by opportunity for clinical research. The opportunity to study problems under guidance is the responsibility of those already in practice.

More research in Catholic medical schools is urged. It should be kept independent, free of excess control. More research should be encouraged in Catholic hospitals. The student should be trained to meet the problem of research to determine what is proper and how to carry the results to the clinical level. The institution should be encouraged to lend financial support and provide the facilities to help establish their doctors in a position of leadership in medicine so that they may fulfill their role in relief of their fellowmen.

To recall the period of technical advances it is not necessary to give detail but worthwhile to recall the antibiotics for infectious diseases coming into importance in 1940; the aseptic era and its relation to Pasteur; amazing advances in surgery of the chest and heart which began in 1939. These were the result of many combined investigations in many fields . . . basic sciences — physics, biochemistry, physiology, pharmacology and now entering the atomic age of medicine.

With these improvements, medicine has made many steps forward to becoming a more exact science, but it still lies in the twilight zone between art and science for it re-

mains truly an art to attempt to differentiate and integrate the human biologic and psychological variable. Men in the fields of "so-called" exact sciences are becoming drawn more and more to medicine as they see in it a fertile field for application of their basic technics which they see have not been widely used in medical applications. This is stimulating and healthful. It is interesting, however, to observe how different is the biological equation from the physical. In the latter the individual components may be quite exactly set up, duplicated, and delimited. In the biological area this is not necessarily true and the manifold inter-relation of one factor to another may be unknown or highly variable.

It is worthwhile to note that much depends upon the point of view. For 200 years the Newtonian laws of motion had been accepted as unalterable and irrefutable. These seemed to be able to explain everything from the nature of heat to the behavior of gases. But as more sensitive instruments were developed and new observations were made, glaring violations of Newton's principles were uncovered. The methods used to measure phenomena in themselves often alter the phenomena so that constantly the search must go on to improve the observations from which conclusions must be drawn.

The keystone of these has been, is, and will be *research*, basic and clinical, for it is upon this that all medical progress is based and from which all future knowledge must accrue.

A second important factor is the dissemination of knowledge through education. This must be accomplished by training in medi-

cal schools developed by experienced instructors, and through graduate education both at the resident level and beyond.

Thirdly is the application of this knowledge to clinical practice at a high level of proficiency.

The names of Catholic scientists occupy high places in the history of medicine. Countless others unknown and unsung have devoted themselves and their lives to this purpose and their profession with a burning fervor.

Similarly, Catholic hospitals have long held positions of honor and affection even in communities which were predominantly non-Catholic because of their adherence to high moral, ethical, and professional standards. It is only by a thorough understanding of the value of research and by providing for it a medium of high quality that these high traditions can be maintained in an era of progress."