2-1-1955

The South - Host to Annual Meeting, Executive Board F.C.P.G.: A Report

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

Follow this and additional works at: https://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq

Part of the Ethics and Political Philosophy Commons, and the Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol22/iss1/6
THE WINTER MEETING of the Executive Board of The Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 27, 1954, at the Jung Hotel. The following were present:

J. J. Toland, Jr., M.D., President, representing Philadelphia Guild; Wm. J. Egan, M.D., 2nd Vice President, representing Boston Guild; Rt. Rev. J. J. Flanagan, S.J., Editor; Dr. Toland called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The Most Reverend Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, joined the group. His Excellency welcomed the Executive Board to New Orleans and graciously spoke to the members.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans is about to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Archbishop Rummel emphasized that Catholic doctors must become vocal in espousing supernatural principles. Proceeding further he stated: "The mission of the Catholic physicist has apostolic spirit. His superior training should make him aware of his responsibility and duties and his influence on fellow-physicians. He must express himself when opposing points of view are raised, not only to refute conclusions but to be able to explain the truth for them. He must present convincing arguments to offset damaging opinions."

Dr. Toland called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Discussion then concerned future meetings of the Executive Board. The next meeting will be in Medical Education" was a few of the suggestions. The list of suggested topics was reviewed and discussed and many helpful suggestions made to the editor.

FINANCIAL REPORT—1954

Mr. M. R. Kneifl, executive secretary, then discussed the financial report. This was the first year for which an actual budget had been set up which resulted in some disparity that is being provided for in the 1955 budget. It can be happily reported that the financial advances made by The Catholic Hospital Association to assist the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds in its operations have been fully liquidated. A word of thanks was expressed for this help.

Total income for the year 1954 (the last two months being estimated) exceeded the budget by $1,352.00. Expenditures exceeded the budget by $1,546.00 due to the fact that printing costs on LINACRE QUARTERLY were in excess of the budget figure and several items of expense were unusually high during the year.

Executive Board Meetings

Discussion then concerned future meetings of the Executive Board. The next meeting will be in March 1955, April 1955, and June 1955. The spring meeting was held in Toronto, Canada, May 1955, and the fall meeting will be held in New York City, October 1955.
held in Atlantic City, New Jersey as it is always convened in conjunction with the A.M.A. Convention which will be held there in 1955. It was voted to have the winter meeting in St. Louis.

ST. LUKE'S DAY OBSERVANCE

The observance of the St. Luke's Day Mass is becoming more and more widespread; for that reason it was deemed time to assign a special designation to the ceremony. Dr. Muscat stated that since white prevails for the garb of the doctor, he would suggest the "White Mass." Discussion followed and the vote taken favored this name. The Feast of St. Luke, patron of Catholic physicians, is October 18 and since it is movable, this Mass is usually set for the Sunday closest to that date. With this special designation, henceforth, it was felt that promotion of its observance will be further stimulated.

PUBLICITY

As an item for the future, radio and television programs were considered. When a series can be prepared concerning the Catholic doctor and his influence in medical and allied fields, time will be secured on these communication media.

MEDICAL NEWSPAPER FEATURES

Feature articles in Catholic and secular papers were discussed with special reference to those furnished The Pilot in Boston by members of the Guild of St. Luke in that city. Brief but concise answers to medical problems were presented in this series appearing weekly;

when editorial material lagged, the project was discontinued but will be resumed early next year. Other Guilds were encouraged to do likewise in their local newspapers to combat erroneous material often involving moral issues.

PROGRAMS ON MEDICAL ETHICS

Many Guilds are located in cities where there are medical schools. It was suggested that these groups investigate medical ethics programs offered and if not adequate, to provide instruction and opportunity for discussion. It was advocated that Catholic clubs in non-Catholic medical schools be organized. Those at Tufts, Harvard and Boston University were cited as examples. It is recommended that the Medico-Moral Problem series by Father Gerald Kelly, S.J., be furnished all medical school libraries.

INSTITUTES ON MEDICO-MORAL PROBLEMS

A project for consideration by individual Guilds was listed on the agenda as "Institutes on Medico-Moral Problems." They are highly successful in many parts of the country in the hospital field. Doctors, priests, sisters engaged in hospital work, nurses and others take part in the sessions. They could well be sponsored by Guilds was the general opinion. The Catholic Hospital Association has been assisting in the promotion of these meetings and could give advice on their conduct.

THIS YEAR'S GOAL

Discussion of special projects for the Federation to sponsor during the next year resulted in the following—in the order listed:

Promote the "White Mass.

Sponsor formation of new Guilds.

Sponsor Junior Guilds in medical schools.

Take some means to dispel belief that in Catholic hospitals mothers' lives are sacrificed in favor of new-born: this and other antiquated ideas do untold harm to the reputation of Catholic institutions.

GUILD REPORTS

Guild representatives reported on their respective activities:

Dr. Eusebius Murphy reported for the Bronx Guild. He advised that three meetings are held yearly. Members of the Guild staff St. Patrick's Home for the Aged, long in need of special help in this regard. Contact is made with third year college students to interest them in medical careers. Linacre Quarterly is furnished in quantity at the Guild's expense to senior medical students at such schools in New York City. Members make a closed retreat in March. Speakers are furnished from the ranks of the Guild for the Marriage Forums that are conducted in New York. The Bronx Guild through promotional efforts was greatly responsible for the formation of the Guild in Westchester, New York.

Dr. L. B. Zeis reported for the Houston Guild. A Mass and Communion breakfast are part of this group's activities. A series of six lectures on medico-moral problems has been sponsored; medical students from Baylor College in Houston were invited to attend. Another series will be conducted next year.

A closed retreat was also provided for the members during the year.

Dr. Wm. J. Egan reported for the Guild of St. Luke in Boston and advised that his group had sponsored a Marian Year Mass to which civic leaders were invited. A new project for the Guild is a series of round table discussions. Groups are comprised of no more than 12 persons, who in turn organize other units. Meetings are held in the homes of the members. This Guild also lends invaluable support to the Catholic clubs in non-Catholic medical schools.

Dr. Ruth G. Aleman advised that the New Orleans Guild has four meetings during the year. Guest speakers are invited and there is a Communion breakfast.

Members make a retreat. The Guild provides for physical examination of children in Catholic schools. A special committee provides reading material for medical schools. This group also lends support to the Newman Club.

Dr. Barker, speaking for the Baton Rouge Guild, indicated that four meetings are held yearly for their group: one social, a Communion breakfast, a St. Luke's Supper, and a dinner meeting to which all obstetricians and gynecologists in the area are invited. A speaker with a pertinent subject is invited for the occasion. An objective of the Baton Rouge Guild is to organize other Guilds in the diocese.

Dr. Muscat, reporting for Mobile, advised that a Mass and Communion breakfast represent the activity of that group thus far.
Dr. Alice Holoubek from the Shreveport Guild advised that all Catholic doctors in that city are members of the Guild. This group, like Mobile, is newly organized. Small groups have been formed for discussion; non-Catholic friends are included. At present the book "Image of His Maker" is being discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board unanimously recommended the reinstatement of the Belleville (Illinois) Guild in the Federation.

The Board authorized a monthly bulletin with news items for the Guilds for the months when THE LINACRE QUARTERLY is not published.

The Board suggested that the editors list in THE LINACRE QUARTERLY, from time to time, localities where Catholic doctors are needed. There is a shortage in many areas, and information regarding situations would be of interest to physicians desiring to make changes for various reasons. The Catholic Hospital Association can furnish this information.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Members of the Executive Board were guests of the New Orleans Guild at a dinner meeting in the Jung Hotel.

NEW PUBLICATION . . .

Part V of the Medico-Moral Problems series of Father Gerald Kelly, S.J., is just off the press! Complete your set of these valuable booklets, 50¢ a copy. The entire series, including the Ethical and Religious Directives, available for $2.50. Six booklets. Order from The Catholic Hospital Association, 1438 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis 4, Missouri.

In the News...

Test-tube babies and divorce

An important ruling clarifying moral and legal problems arising in a recent divorce case was featured with great emphasis in The New World, Chicago Catholic weekly. Superior Court Judge Gibson E. Gorman ruled that "Test-tube babies are illegitimate if the natural fathers were not the donors. Mothers guilty of such practices have committed adultery, even if the artificial insemination was performed with the consent of the husband," he decreed. The judge rendered the decision in a divorce suit in which a mother made the claim that her five-year-old son was born as a result of artificial insemination. She claimed that as a result of this, the child is the child of the mother alone and that the husband has no right or interest in said child. In her divorce suit she accused her husband of "habitual drunkenness."

The husband's opposing petition contended that he is actually the father of the child. But it said that if the woman was artificially inseminated, then it was "without sanction of moral or natural law, and without regard for the future rights" of the child and constituted an act of adultery.

In his ruling, Judge Gorman made judgment on the following propositions which he had been asked to affirm:

-Artificial insemination is not contrary to public policy.

Artificial insemination does not constitute adultery.

-A child born of artificial insemination is legitimate and the child of the mother only; the father or husband has no right to said child.

Judge Gorman decreed: "1. Heterologous artificial insemination (when the donor is a third party) 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. A child so conceived is not a child born in wedlock and is therefore illegitimate. As such, it is the child of the mother, and the father has no right or interest in said child.

2. Homologous artificial insemination (when the donor is the husband of the woman) is not contrary to public policy and good morals, and does not present any difficulty from the legal point of view."

The answering petition asserted: "The alleged artificial insemination is immoral because both natural and divine law establish the fact that a new life must be procreated only inside marriage. The voluntary surrender by the plaintiff to another person of her reproductive powers or faculties should be held by the court to be an act of adultery."

Attorney for the defendant was expected to file a complaint with