February 1982

President's Page

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Available at: http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol49/iss1/3
One Issue for Existence?

The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds is a one-issue organization.

TRUE or FALSE?

Ludicrous?
That statement was made to me by a physician — a Catholic physician, a non-member Catholic physician.
The one issue he saw for our existence was abortion. How sad! We must be concerned with the unborn. Even the Thomases must admit that's a good place to start. But, certainly there are other issues we are about.
I wondered, "Had he ever attended a national or local guild meeting?" Of course he hadn't. He wasn't a member.
Had he attended he would have heard his peers discuss a myriad of medical-moral problems that ran the gamut of the ages, from before emergence to the last light; the advantages of Christian healing; beautiful thoughts expressed on the avenue of social justice. He would have heard from people who were doers: physicians and their families who so graciously gave of their time and energies to Christ, both here and in distant mission hospitals; and the religious, constantly enlarging their family of loved ones and meaning so much to so many sufferers.
Had he been a member he would have received the *Linacre Quarterly*. He would have read many divergent opinions, some of them very difficult to fathom. How sad he hadn't these opportunities!

I think he may have been right, though, about our being a one-issue organization. But the issue is JUSTICE. Our primary thrust, as I see it, is ensuring medical and social justice. We can only do this by becoming involved, as individuals and as an organization.

Your board of directors has recently formed, under the leadership of John Coughlin, M.D., a liaison committee to work with representatives of the Catholic Health Association (a new name for the Catholic Hospital Association), the National Council of Catholic Bishops, and the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. The committee's primary goal will be a unified thrust in the fields of medical and social justice. Godspeed!

— David P. Frelinger, M.D.

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**TITLE OF PUBLICATION:** Linacre Quarterly

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