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President's Page

Gino G. Papola

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THE NATIONAL FEDERATION
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President's Page...

Gino G. Papola, M.D.

This will be my last message as President of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. I wish to thank all who have given me encouragement and constructive criticism during this past year. I shall cherish the honor of serving as President of the National Federation for the rest of my life. I especially would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their kind patience with me this past year. My expression of thanks would not be complete without giving special mention to three people who have been invaluable to me during my term of office. Because of their dedication the basic goal of my administration, conceived four years ago, has been brought to a successful achievement. I am referring to the XII Congress of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations which was held this past October in Washington, D.C. Dr. Rosalie Albers, as general chairman, and Dr. Charles Bauda, as program chairman, put together one of the finest international meetings ever held. Behind the scenes the present has been our wonderfully efficient Executive Secretary, Robert Herzog. Future Presidents will find, as I have, that it is only necessary to ask Bob to do something, and it is done quickly and perfectly.

Every President upon completing his term of office wonders what he has contributed to his organization, and what will be the effect of his contribution to the future of the organization he has just served as its leader. I hope that my year in office has brought some honor and recognition to our Federation. I hope it has given some impetus to the fact that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds is a working, viable organization, dedicated to the basic Christian code of medical moral ethics. I would welcome any thoughts you might have on this.

Again and again as the years go by, our determination to uphold these beliefs will be tested. If we are to remain true followers of Christ, we must never
compromise our beliefs. We are told that we live in a pluralistic society and therefore we should not impose our moral code on others. Of course it would not matter to us that others are trying to impose their moral code on us. However, when we protest against morality that is opposed to ours, we are forcing others to accept our code, for those who are strongly on the other side will not change their thinking. However, the many who are undecided, uninterested might be influenced by our championing of God's laws. After all, the basic Christian-Judaic morality was given to us by Almighty God, was not contrived by the Catholic Church or by any human being. The Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God himself, not by the Catholic Church. These laws and commandments are being given different meaning today by human beings who want to play God, and who are trying to impose the "God is Dead" philosophy on us. Did not Christ ask us to go out and teach all nations this not a mandate that we should go out and impose His moral code on all people? It is about time that we realize that the commandments of God are sacred and not subject to change by majority vote.

Thank you all for the honor you have bestowed on me this past year.

Gino G. Femia, M.D.
President

5th International Symposium on Abortion, Family Planning, and Sex Education
November 27, 28, 29-1970
Boston, Massachusetts
Sheraton Plaza Hotel
Registration Fee — $10.00

Tentative Program:
Friday, November 27:
1 p m Keynote Address
2:10 p m Scientific Session on Rhythm
7 p m Banquet Speaker and Banquet

Saturday, November 28:
Morning Couples—Rhythm Education
Afternoon Pro-Life Talks and Promotion
Evening Public Debate on Abortion
(Physicians and Laymen)

Sunday, November 29:
Morning Looking to the Future

Tentative Speakers are:
John Archibald; Conrad Baars, M.D.; John Kantselis, M.D.; Robert Hall, M.D.; Dr. Will Herberg; Russell Kirk; Senator Lamm; William Lynch, M.D.; Robert Prem, M.D.; Victor Rosenblum; Norman St. John-Steva.

Registations may be sent to:
Commission Symposium
P. O. Box 31
Oak Park, Illinois 60303

The Addict and The AMA
James T. Nix, M.D.

In the past, when medicine was the family physician, his devotion and dedication merited the trust that patients placed in his devoted, loving hands. Kindness was his specialty. Specialization has made him the Vanishing Cavalier. In American medicine today, the voice of the AMA is not necessarily that of the "silent majority" of practicing American physicians. Resolutions and opinions expressed at American Medical Association conventions may reflect the opinion of delegates elected by self-perpetuating medical politicians from component medical societies. The American citizen expected that their hard-earned tax dollars dedicated to control of crime on the streets, and curbing heroin addiction, would be allocated prudently to medical grants showing the best promise of cure at the lowest financial cost. Yet, a half billion dollars annually has been given in medical grants by the federal government to non-methadone, non-productive programs with a 3 percent cure or remission rate, rather than to non-methadone maintenance programs with a confirmed cure and remission rate of 65 percent. Organized medicine has done little to merit the confidence of the American public and safeguard our citizens against physicians deficient in moral character who might research for financial gain.

At every American Medical Association convention, pious platitudes labeled as "resolutions", are passed and possibly forgotten before they are printed, to be filed in the limbo of half-forgotten things. At the 1969 American Medical Association convention in New York City, a resolution was passed, guaranteeing every American his basic right to the physician and hospital of his choice. As the narcotic addict is still considered by organized medicine as a criminal, not what he is—a sick American whose illness motivates his crime, he is deprived of his basic health right of freedom of choice, and treatment by government or university physicians is often mandatory. Furthermore, he is seldom courteously treated by any physicians, and physicians in private practice regard him as a hazard to their professional income. It seems that "once an addict, never an American citizen." Parallel to "Alphonse and Gaston", the medical society tells the physician member that whatever the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs approves is ethical, and the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs say that whatever the Medical Society considers ethical is not a violation of federal law.

Ethics would seem to have geographic boundaries. To the Louisiana