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President's Page

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President's Page . . .

Elsewhere in this issue of the Linacre Quarterly is printed the most recent "Father Gerald Kelly Lecture". It was delivered in New York City on July 13, 1969, by the Most Reverend Joseph B. Brunini, our Episcopal Advisor and concerned friend. It was entitled, "The Catholic Doctor in the Renewed Church." I sincerely hope that all will read it. Those of us who were privileged to hear it in person were impressed by its scope and depth of thought.

The issues which are raised in this lecture, (particularly those relating to a change in the code of ethics for Catholic hospitals), are rather startling. Some of the possible solutions to these thorny issues may prove to be quite controversial. It is not my intention to imply that we need a change in our code of ethics for Catholic hospitals. The thought of a sterilization being done in a Catholic hospital goes against my grain. Yet the issues will not fade away as some might hope. Rather, these weighty issues must be pondered and discussed in depth by us all.

Naturally, we as physicians are not able to evaluate and elucidate the intricate moral aspects of these issues. This is the bread and butter work of the competent moral theologian. However, as Bishop Brunini points out, any study of these issues should be made by scholarly leaders in many disciplines. Therefore, I believe the Federation should investigate the questions, evaluate the need for change and, if indicated, initiate talks with leaders in these other disciplines. It would be a formidable project but one of great merit. By no means should we change our traditional views on such things as sterilization without thorough study and adequate consultation.

We must approach these issues with an open mind, asking ourselves how best we are to serve God by helping His people, our brothers. Let us not forget the power of prayer. Pray that the Holy Spirit will show us the way.

Lastly, I want to thank all who in any way have worked for the Federation this past year. This work came in many diverse forms and by many inspiring people. Neither could adequately be detailed at this time so no attempt will be made for fear of omission. Without this dedicated effort the Federation would cease to function and it would have been impossible to serve as your President. This has been an honor which I shall always cherish. Thank you.

John M. Malone, M.D.
President