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The Thomas Linacre Award

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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Saint Luke: Model of the Physician

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One very human temptation that men of every age, persuasion and background have found to be a siren call not easily resisted is the temptation to define the indefinable and to express the inexpressible. This is the assignment that has fallen to me today. To speak of St. Luke as the model for physicians presupposes an ability to define what the ideal physician is; and it presupposes the ability to capture in the fragile vessel of words the illusive spirit of a man and saint who lived two thousand years ago. But the task is a challenging one because the lives of great men are challenging, and the ideals of a great profession are fascinating to contemplate. It is for this reason that I willingly accepted Father Konrad's invitation, and am thankful to you for the opportunity to develop this theme.

There are many ways in which this subject could have been broached. As I sifted them, the one that kept returning to my mind was suggested by an heraldic shield I once saw. It was a shield bearing a medical legend. Perhaps many of you will recognize it as I describe it to you. If you were to face the shield, you would view its ensign standing out on a field of bright blue. One half of the shield bears the forearm and hand of a woman. The other half is subdivided: the top quarter has the head of an eagle with its eye most prominent; the lower quarter carries the picture of a lion. The symbolic meaning of the entire legend is easy to discern. The doctor is reminded that his vocation demands that he be gentle as a woman; that his practiced eye be as discerning as that of the eagle to disclose sickness and injury; that his pursuit of sickness be courageous so that he may master the wilderness of suffering as the lion masters the enemy in a hostile jungle.

This tripartite message offers us a most useful paradigm for our discussion of the virtues of St. Luke as they might serve the physician seeking a model for his own life and practice.

Address given at a combination White Mass and Communion Breakfast for the Catholic Physicians Guild, Brooklyn, N.Y. Father Michael Cantley obtained his Doctorate in Scripture at the Catholic University of America and is teaching at St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The gentleness of Luke has been observed by practically every commentator on his Gospel. His is often called the Gospel of the poor and the lowly because their plight plays such a significant role in his depiction of the life and ministry of Christ. In the infancy chapters, Luke emphasizes the modest circumstances surrounding

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The THOMAS LINACRE Award

Eugene F. Diamond, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University, was chosen the winner of the 1969 Thomas Linacre Award. The Award was presented to Dr. Diamond at the Gerald Kelly Lecture Dinner at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois on June 21, 1969 by Dr. John P. Mullooly, Editor of the Linacre Quarterly. The Thomas Linacre Award is given annually to the physician who has written the best article and has had it published in one of the four issues of the Quarterly. Votes were solicited from the President of each of the ninety Guilds and from the members of the Board of Directors of the National Federation. Dr. Eugene F. Diamond received the award for the article entitled "Who Speaks for the Fetus" which appeared in the February, 1969 issue of the Linacre Quarterly.

Dr. Diamond is married to Rosemary Wright and they have thirteen children, seven handsome sons and six beautiful daughters. The Diamonds reside in Palos Park, Illinois.