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DR. CHARLES A. BAUDA

With this issue of the LINacre QUARTERLY, the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Buffalo celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The Buffalo Guild was founded in 1947 under the auspices of the late John Cardinal O'Hara, who was then Bishop of Buffalo. It was in the year of the celebration of the International Eucharistic Congress, which was held in Buffalo on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Diocese. The Guild had an auspicious beginning. There were 50 members present at the First Annual Communion Breakfast on September 14, 1947.

Our first and present moderator is Reverend Michael Sekelsky. Father Sekelsky has been an understanding moderator. He has given us considerable latitude in determining our course of action, and sustained us in all of our undertakings.

The Guild's activities began with one formal meeting a year—the annual Communion Mass and breakfast. Gradually its activities have expanded to include two retreats a year and an annual spring dinner, at which an outstanding national figure is invited to speak.

The Chair of Pastoral Medicine was established in October, 1964 at St. John Vianney Seminary, the major seminary for priests in the Buffalo Diocese. The Chair was established to provide a common meeting ground among priests, doctors and lay leaders. Dr. Edward Magee Tracy, a past-president of the Buffalo Guild, and his wife, who work as a team in the Pre-Cana movement, conceived this idea and brought it to fruition.

In 1964, the Buffalo Guild established a Medical Mission Committee with Dr. John G. Zoll as chairman. By means of a questionnaire, Dr. Zoll was able to assess the wishes of the Guild members. He solicited the experience of Dr. Joseph E. Garry, of the Detroit Catholic Physicians Guild, who graciously attended a meeting in Buffalo to give the benefit of his extensive and firsthand experience in the medical mission field. It was the decision of our committee to support a native South American physician serving the medical needs of the Oblate Fathers mission at Suzanna, Brazil. A similar plan was initiated for a Baptist medical mission. In addition, cash donations have been made to St. John's Medical School in Bangalore, India. Subscriptions to several A.M.A. journals were sent to the same school.

In 1965, Dr. Zoll was elected president of our Guild. He was responsible for the reactivation of the various standing committees and the appointment of a committee for updating our Constitution. He provided the inspired leadership that has spurred his successors to continue with the same dedication and zeal.

In 1966, we inaugurated the first annual White Mass observance which we celebrate each year within the Octave of the Feast Day of St. Luke. This first observance was well attended; included were many nurses and paramedical personnel. Most Reverend James A. McNulty, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, officiated at the Mass and preached a most inspiring sermon on the four Evangelists. Dr. Louis Devincenitis and Dr. Edward Zimmermann were co-chairmen of this event.

That same year, we added another project to the agenda of activities—that of a Committee on Education and Research. Dr. Robert W. O'Connor was appointed chairman of this committee. The long-range plans of this committee are to review and evaluate the educational and research facilities that are available in the Catholic hospitals in the greater Buffalo area, with the ultimate goal of improving and coordinating these facilities, to maintain the highest standard of medical practice in our community.

These projects have been pursued in addition to the activities of the following standing committees:

Health Care of Religious—Guild members provided physical examinations for 656 nurses in 1965 and 1966. Dr. Daniel McCue is chairman of this committee.

Family Life Committee—Dr. Joseph Ricotta is chairman of this committee. He heads the Family Life Clinic, which is operated under the supervision of the Family Life Department of the Diocese of Buffalo. Reverend Dino Lorenzetti is the director of the Family Life Department and spiritual advisor to the couples seeking service. This clinic provides individual guidance to married couples desiring to space their children, using acceptable methods. Some 20 gynecologists staff the clinic.

The Family Life Committee was called upon to spearhead the battle opposing the proposed changes in the New York State abortion laws. The committee drafted a statement which was signed by all the officers of the Guild and the committee members. It was further endorsed by the signatures of 200 members of the Guild. Copies of this statement were sent to the representatives of the State Assembly and Senate who reside in the greater Buffalo area.

Pre-Cana Conferences—75 members of our Guild held Pre-Cana Conferences for 8,000 people during 1966.

By-Laws Committee—During the latter part of 1965 and the early part of 1966, Dr. Richard Leberer and his By-Laws Committee worked on a revision of our Constitution. It was up-dated to meet the needs and objectives of a modern-day Catholic Physicians' Guild.

National Council of Catholic Men Conference—we have been a member of this national organization since 1956. Our representative to this organization for this span of years has been Dr. Joseph Syracuse. His article on the co-operative efforts of this committee appears in this issue.

This year, our President, Dr. Floyd M. Zaeplfl has undertaken the task of establishing a system of communication and dialogue between our Guild and other professional guilds as well as with members of the hierarchy. Thus far this year, we have had sessions with the priest-editor of our Diocesan newspaper; the administrator of a Catholic hos-
At times such as these, while the
spirit of ecumenism has been con-
structed as a reason for abandoning all
Catholic action, it should be kept in
mind that in Buffalo we feel there is
greater need now, than ever before,
to have strong Catholic action—the
which our Christian brethren may
emulate.

This issue is dedicated to the
Catholic physicians in Buffalo who
are imbued with the thought that,
in the light of the directive of Vatican
Council II counseling greater partici-
pation in the lay apostolate, organized effort through Catholic
Physicians' Guilds provides excellent
means for effective action and
responsible leadership.

DR. BAUDA is the associate editor of this
August issue of LQ.

Practice Rhythm? — Why Not?

JOSEPH J. RICOTTA, M.D.

There is no body of religious
leadership more concerned with the
dignity of human existence and with the
integrity of the family than the the
Catholic Church. Christ, the
Founder, died to prove God's love
of man, and God's esteem for the
individual. The Catholic Church in the face of
misunderstanding and abuse, has
clung to its conviction regarding the
inviolability of marriage and the
family. This is not from whim nor
from a malevolent insistence of im-
posing its will upon mankind. It is
rather from its certainty that She is
the guardian of the teachings of
Christ, the true deposit of Faith.

The knowledgeable Catholic be-
lieves that there are two equally im-
portant basic purposes of marriage:
1. the procreation of children
2. the rendering of mutual love
and comfort by husband and wife
to each other, and the enrichment
of this mutual love. This does in-
clude the giving of mutual pleasure
and satisfaction through sexual
intercourse.

The concept of responsible paren-
thood imposes the obligation to do
more than beget children. The family
is deeply enriched when father and
mother are able to have the number
of children they can adequately
house, clothe, feed and educate
without undermining the economic
stability of the home, or the health
and welfare of the family.

For this reason, much Catholic
effort has gone into the study of
natural, moral means of family
planning. This is why the problem
of world population control was one
of the most significant areas of study
of the Vatican Council. Because the
Pope has not yet given us an answer,
an easy solution, is not to say that
the honest Catholic will therefore
abandon his allegiance to the
Church. This would be analogous
to the act of the American who finds
himself in disagreement with the
President or the Congress (in Viet
Nam, for example) and therefore
burns his draft card or even himself.

In a recent issue of a popular mag-
azine a letter to the editor voiced a
complaint commonly heard today.
"As a non-Catholic," the letter read,
"I have many times found the philos-
opies of Catholicism contrary to
what I would call common sense."

Through the centuries, these phi-
losophies have been accepted and re-
pected by some of the greatest
intellects. Many of these minds have
left their mark in the field of litera-
ture, science, medicine. Many of
them embraced Catholicism after
much searching, when their mental
faculties were most discerning—to

Many charges frequently are made
about Catholics: that they blindly
follow and pretend to believe doc-
trines which they cannot possibly ac-
cept in their hearts; that Catholics
believe in the existence of a power on
ground, the Papacy, which at its own
will imposes on its followers any new
set of beliefs whenever it chooses, by
a claim to infallibility; the charge
that one's thoughts are not his own,