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The Thomas Linacre Award 1972

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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The Thomas Linacre Award for 1972 was presented to John Brennan, M.D. for his article “Quick sands of Compromise” which was published in Linacre Quarterly in February, 1972. John P. Mullooly, M.D., Linacre Quarterly Editor, gave the Linacre Award to Dr. Brennan at the annual meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds in Anaheim, California in December, 1973. The recipients of the Linacre Award are chosen by the Presidents of each Guild (90) and the Board of Directors of the NFCPG by mailed ballot. Past recipients of the Award have been articulate, intelligent, literary and well informed physician-leaders who have been able to rise above the smoke and confusion of raging controversy in order to give clear insight into the problems at hand.

In comparing modern day controversies to those of bygone days, the type of leadership has often proved to be decisive in determining the outcome. The United States in the 1860’s was a house divided much as the modern day Catholic physician is divided. In the Civil War, Lincoln was the one leader who was able to rise above the swirling events and pressures to give clear vision and guidance to a divided nation. While not as dramatic, the NFCPG’s has given its Linacre Award to its new president, John Brennan, in recognition of his outstanding talents in the field of medical ethics as manifested by his literary ability. Like most leaders, he has the talent, ability and character plus the shrewdness of a skilled tactician who can deal successfully with every man, be he governor, senator, bishop, legislator, physician, lawyer or layman. He has been extremely effective at initiating changes which uphold the Christian code of values in regard to the family. It is this dedicated, charismatic leader who will lead the NFCPG through the year 1974. With him on his journey go the prayers, hopes and heartfelt best wishes of 6,000 members of the Catholic Physicians’ Guilds.

J.P.M.