August 1960

Activities of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds

Joe E. Holoubek

Follow this and additional works at: https://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol27/iss3/4
It's absurd to oppose loss of autonomy by platitudes instead of correcting the cause. It may be too late to build dikes; perhaps the need now is for boats.

Medicine and its contribution to the health and happiness of every individual is not sufficiently appreciated because no one has taken the time to advise of the problems involved in practice. The physician is fast becoming a journeyman because no one has explained the intricacies of the profession. The physician must be given autonomy; he must be revered or all humanity suffers. This, it appears to me, is the task facing our County Medical Societies.

*Mr. Berry is Associate Professor in Hospital Administration, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Mr. Holoubek of Shreveport, Louisiana is First Vice-President of the National Federation. As an official delegate to the IX International Congress of Catholic Doctors held in Munich, Germany, he gave this address on July 28, 1960.
one county, an entire city, or an entire diocese. The entire state of Arkansas is covered by one Guild, located in Little Rock. As you see in Figure 2, the State of Louisiana is the most complete organized. There are 8 separate Guilds in the State. Each is located in a central city and the Catholic doctors within the surrounding territory are invited to join their local Guild. The heavily populated areas such as New Orleans and Baton Rouge have large membership. On the other hand, there are only 11 in the large area around Monroe. We have reached the goal of a Guild within 50 miles of the home of every Catholic physician in the State of Louisiana. Other States are also organizing in this manner. Every diocese in the State of New York has a Guild. The goal of every Catholic doctor in America belonging to a Guild is still far from achieved.

We estimate that there are some 35,000 Catholic physicians in our country. In the future, we hope all will be members of their local groups.

National Board

The Board of Delegates of our Federation is composed of elected national officers and one representative from each affiliated Guild. The Board meets twice annually, in the summer during the American Medical Association general convention and again in the winter.

The Linacre Quarterly

The official journal of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds is THE LINACRE QUARTERLY. It is devoted to promoting the philosophy and ethics of medical practice. It is in reality a medium to bring together Catholic theology and medical science. The circulation of the May 1960 issue was 10,360. It is received by all Guild members. Other subscribers are medical schools, hospital libraries and members of the clergy.

Guards in Action

Guards in Action is a newsletter sent to members. It contains a list of activities of the groups, announcements of interest to all members, and a section to help Catholic doctors find locations to practice.

Memorial Mass

A Memorial Mass for all deceased members of the American Medical Association is offered annually during the summer meeting. All officers and delegates of the Federation, Catholic physicians and their families attending the A.M.A. convention are invited to attend. It is usually held at 5:00 p.m. and celebrated by the Moderator of the Federation, presided over by the Bishop of the diocese. The 550 persons assisted at the Mass in Miami, Florida, June 15 this year.

Exhibit

Since 1956 the Federation has exhibited at the American Medical Association annual convention. The booth has a large display entitled "Moral Principles in Medical Practice." It is staffed by members of the Guilds. Copies of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY and publications explaining medico-moral principles are distributed. Many hundreds of non-Catholic as well as Catholic clerics, priests and laymen are invited to attend the Federation's annual conference, held at the A.M.A. convention. Many priests and laymen have now been introduced to the principles of moral practice.
as Catholic physicians visit the exhibit and learn about our beliefs and principles.

**Thomas Linacre Award**

Periodically, the Thomas Linacre Award is given to the Catholic physician contributing an article to the Linacre Quarterly judged by an editorial board to be most valuable in content to promote the interests of the journal in its efforts to express opinions in the light of Catholic teaching as applied to medical practice. In 1957 Dr. Roy J. Heffernan and William Lynch received the Award for their article “Is Therapeutic Abortion Scientifically Justified?” In 1958 it was received by Dr. Eugene G. Laforet for his contribution, “Boxing, Medical and Moral Aspects.” An Award will be made to a medical student in the future.

**Silver Jubilee Celebration**

The largest social function of the National Federation was the Silver Jubilee celebration held in New York City, June 5, 1957. An anniversary Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick’s Cathedral at 11 a.m. In the evening a banquet and ball were held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel with guests exceeding 1,100. Representatives were present from all of the national medical organizations. General Carlos Romulo of the Philippine Republic addressed the group.

**Local Guild Activities**

Each Guild is autonomous in its program and organization. Some have monthly meetings; others plan quarterly sessions. Programs are planned to serve the spiritual needs of member physicians.

**Retreats**

Retreats are sponsored. All Guild members are encouraged to make one annually.

**Days of Recollection**

Days of Recollection are often held in local hospital chapels. These usually begin with 9:00 o’clock Mass on Sunday, followed by three or four spiritual conferences and periods of meditation throughout the day.

**Requiem Mass**

A Requiem Mass for deceased members of a local group is usually celebrated by the Moderator once a year. Nocturnal Adoration, First Friday Communion and other spiritual activities are sponsored. Enrichment of the spiritual life of the doctor is the primary purpose of these activities. Members are urged to spend a certain period of each day in meditation.

**Medical Care Functions**

Some Guilds provide medical care to indigent groups, homes for the aged and orphanages. Others supply medical care to large diocesan gatherings where physicians might be needed.

**Health Program for Parochial School Children**

The New Orleans, Louisiana Guild supplies physicians to examine needy first grade school children. Necessary inoculations are provided. A “healthmobile” for hearing tests, visual, and dental examinations is also sponsored.

**Medical Student Groups**

Many Guilds devote special attention to medical students, hospital internes and residents. In some areas they are invited to participate in Guild activities and receive The Linacre Quarterly. Discussion groups for medical students are organized in some areas and regular meetings are held to consider medico-moral principles. Non-Catholic students are invited to attend.

**Medico-Moral Problems Institutes**

Periodically, meetings with hospital sisters, chaplains, nurses, and physicians are held in various locations.
localities for the discussion of medico-moral problems. Prominent theologians conduct the sessio-ns in the area often sponsor special evening for discussion specific problems. Courses are given to graduate and student nurses on medical ethics. Other conferences on such topics as hypnosis, moral considerations in radiology, the Catholic physician as pre-marital counselor and fam­­ily counselor have been among the issues discussed. Books concerning medico-moral principles are distributed to local hospitals, medical schools and nursing libraries in some of the groups.

**Research Grants**

Research grants have been supported by some Guilds, to stimulate this activity in Catholic hospitals.

**High School Students and Medicine**

In some areas, Guilds provide speakers for local Catholic high schools to encourage young men and women to choose medicine as a career.

**State-wide Activities**

In Louisiana, the officers and Moderators of the eight Guilds in the State have a meeting once a year and discuss their programs and related activities. A newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 400 members throughout the State.

**Social Activities**

A number of Guilds have dinner meetings to which members’ wives are invited. Speakers discuss topics of mutual interest. Needless to say, cooperation of the spouse is essential for the success of any Guild activity.

**Medical Mission Activities**

Foreign mission activities are becoming a concern to the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds as well as to American Catholics. Some Guilds are encouraging programs to familiarize themselves with the medical mission activities of the Church. A few members have gone to mission hospitals to teach and work. Internes and resident are being urged to devote one to three years of their lives in the service of God in the medical missions of His Church. Outstanding among these are the Los Angeles, California Guild that is sponsoring three physicians in the African missions and the Detroit, Michigan Guild that is sending a physician to operate a mission hospital in Guatemala. At the recent summer meeting of the Federation in Miami, Florida a committee was appointed to study methods of correlating medical mission activities of the various Guilds and to develop a program that would promote service in the Catholic mission field.

Nevertheless, the activities of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Guilds and its various affiliates are varied. However, the basic aim is to bring spiritual counsel and moral guidance to the physician so that he may be a more deeply religious man and a better Catholic in his daily practice of medicine.

I will close with the **Physician’s Prayer** which has been adopted by the Federation:

> Divine Healer of the sick, Christ Jesus Our Lord, without whose aid I can do nothing, look down with favor upon me.

> Give me skill to my hand, clear vision to my eye, kindness and sympathetic understanding to my heart. Give me singleness of purpose, strength to lighten at least a part of the burden of my suffering fellowman and a true realization of the privilege it is mine. Direct my work that it may be praiseworthy in Thy sight and useful unto those entrusted to my care, and in things that do Thy will. Amen.

---

**PLAN NOW... for THE WHITE MASS**

**OCTOBER 18, FEAST OF ST. LUKE PATRON OF PHYSICIANS**

Annual Mass offered by members of the medical profession and all others devoted to the care of the sick. Honor St. Luke, Patron of Physicians.

---

Linacre Quarterly

August, 1960
OR. FRANKLYN E. VERDON of Coral Gables, Florida, receives congratulations of Father John J. Flanagan, S.J., editor of the LINCARE QUARTERLY and executive director of The Catholic Hospital Association, following his appointment as Federation secretary. Dr. Verdon is a member of the Miami Guild.

MEMORIAL MASS for all Rhode Island representatives was held at St. Patrick Church, Miami Beach, by Msgr. McGowan, A.M.A. representatives, and hospital association members. Catholic and non-Catholic physicians heard the Mass, and Msgr. McGowan distributed Holy Communion to physicians and their families.

DR. EUSEBIUS J. MURPHY, Bronx, N.Y., national federation president, is shown with Msgr. Donald A. McGowan, the federation's national moderator; Bishop Coleman; F. Carroll of the Miami diocese, and Dr. Edward J. Leach, J.D., second vice-president of the A.M.A. Catholic Guild. Photographed at the booth sponsored by the A.M.A. Catholic viewpoint on medical-moral problems was explained to visitors.

DR. I. L. CHROSZ, Albany, New York, gives a tour of the Guild representatives attending the annual meeting of the national federation executive board meeting, June 15. Dr. Clement P. Cunningham, Rock Island, Ill., and second vice-president of the national organization, is explaining plan for Guild membership drive.

HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL FEDERATION ACTIVITIES

FLORIDA

JUNE 13-17, 1960

- A. M. I. - Executive Board Meeting - Memorial Mass