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President's Page

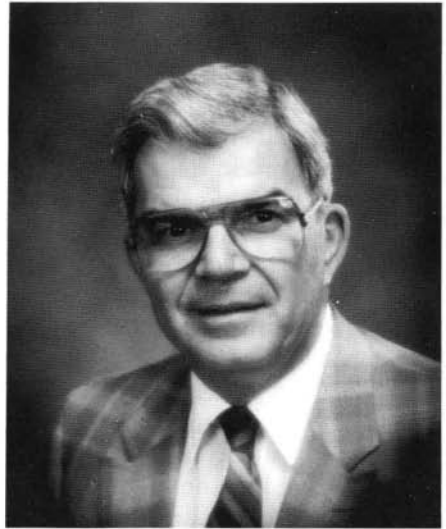
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President's Page



A Need to Increase

My initial contact with the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was through the local Guild in Milwaukee, which occasionally invited medical students as guests, during my student days, at what is now the Medical College of Wisconsin. I subsequently left the area and became involved with internship, residency training, and all the busy activities of early practice which take up the time of new physicians.

As time went on, I became increasingly concerned with the explosion of medical and moral issues as they concerned me and my obligations, responsibilities, and relationship to the patients for whom I cared. The traditional medical societies and medical organizations to which I belonged no longer seemed to support the philosophical positions and ethical standards which I held as a Catholic and as a physician. This resulted in the formation of a small group of local physicians and a priest moderator who met monthly to discuss Church teaching as related to medical-moral issues. Although the group was short-lived, on one occasion, an individual brought in for discussion a copy he had found of the *Linacre Quarterly*. I am indebted to that individual, since that copy of the *Linacre Quarterly* gave me a name and address which enabled me to again participate in the activities of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds and provided me a mechanism to obtain reaffirmation and support for the Catholic medical-moral ethical positions which I want to incorporate in and be a part of my practice.

Through the years of my membership in the Federation, and now as I assume the presidency of that organization, I see as one of its more pressing

needs a means of increasing our membership, not only to increase our effectiveness, but to meet the needs of our Catholic physicians and dentists who need the information, education, affirmation, and support which the organization gives, and who do not know that the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds even exists! In this light, I ask you to read again Dr. Andrew Peters's article on "Why a Catholic Physicians' Guild?" which appeared in the *Linacre Quarterly* in February, 1987.

Membership has been of vital concern to all the officers of the Federation. Considerable time and work have been expended by so many. I recall in particular the efforts of the Membership Committee, under the direction of Dr. Eugene Diamond, which has tried to revitalize and reorganize established local guilds and form new guilds. It was with regret and sorrow that we experienced the loss of the wit, expertise, drive and energy of Dr. Clement Austria on his death. He produced for us the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds membership educational video. This past year, Dr. and Mrs. Patrick Hogan managed a booth during the annual meeting of the Missouri Medical Association to give information on and encourage membership in the Catholic Physicians' Guilds. These are but a few of the so many who have done so much to try and build our organization. Yet each year, we find it increasingly difficult to maintain our membership numbers.

However, I do not feel we are going to enlarge our membership by more activity at the Board of Directors level. We do not have the time or the monetary resources to increase our effectiveness there. Like so many of the social and fraternal organizations, we must depend on the one-to-one, face-to-face contact of our active and associate members with their physician and dentist colleagues to tell the story of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians, and the reasons and benefits of membership in the organization. As our membership increases, so will our resources and effectiveness. If every member could recruit one new member during this coming year, our size would double, and if each year, all members could continue to recruit new members, our membership would remain growing, strong and healthy. Please let your Catholic physician and Catholic dentist associates know about us and invite them to join with us in membership in the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

— Donald E. McIntosh, M.D.
President, NFCPG
