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Dr. William Lynch was president of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds in 1977-78.

WILLIAM A. LYNCH, M.D.

— Crusader for Life —

Dr. William A. Lynch, a valiant exponent and exemplar of life in its fullest meaning was called by his Maker on March 14, 1982. Those of us who were privileged to have witnessed even a small part of his tireless struggle to defend for this generation and to transmit to the next generation Christian and natural law values in family life, in medical and social ethics and in enlightened public policy, will feel the benediction of his influence and the spark of his inspiration for the rest of our lives. We of the board of the Human Life and Natural Family Planning Foundation — especially those whom he recruited in that cause over a decade ago — will especially cherish his memory. He is one of those souls through whom “God stooping shows sufficient of His light” to illumine our own path to eternity. After 45 years of fairly extensive commerce with the world, I have never met a man from whose persevering, purposeful personality one could gain greater motivation and inspiration to strive for the ideals he represented.

He was a perfectionist in his profession. As a practicing obstetrician he approached the delivery of new human life with combined reverence and joyousness. He loved his calling. Those children who first saw the light of day under his skillful guidance were direct beneficiaries of his mastery of his art and science. However, he also stood as a sentinel, guarding the portals of life for millions unborn. Sometimes, even though weary beyond normal human endurance, after assuring himself of the well-being of his patients, he would journey to the most remote areas in the cause of life. In his crusade, there was no convocation so large, no meeting so small, no city so great, no hamlet so tiny, no

legislative hearing so remote or late or delayed, no scientific meeting so far away that he would not endure any hardship or inconvenience to attend. Hundreds of thousands of youngsters throughout America were his audiences as he strove to inculcate the beauty, dignity and rational meaning of life. Thousands of couples entered marriage with the keener sense of its joy and responsibility because they read his writings or heard him speak.

Adversaries of his position found him a formidable opponent because he could meet doctor or scientist on the terrain of medicine or science with his own impregnable qualifications and the impressive fruit of his own reading and research. He was not only a crusader for life, he was also an expert advocate who brought into often intense combat intellectual resources of the highest order, and thus he feared no opponent.

There are few men in any of the professions or in business with his intellectual curiosity coupled with the breadth of his cultural interests. Music, the dramatic arts, the Greek and Latin classics, philosophy, theology, and history, made particularly vital its relevance to current events, all engrossed him. Thus, he not only defended life, but he cherished and nurtured the capacity of the human person to enjoy and enrich God's basic magnificent endowment. In his home, among his books or at his table, he was the embodiment of the gracious host and delightful companion.

He loved his country and served bravely in her defense in wartime. He loved his religion. The Roman Catholic Church was to him truly mother and teacher. He loved the institutional Church as a man loves his mother. He studied the precepts of the magisterium with a learned and conscientious insight into their meaning and their practical application. His professional life would have had less trauma and his personal resources might have been greatly augmented if he had compromised his ethical principles and yielded ever so little to the expedient. The modern world offered him many rewards for just a small sacrifice of principle, and in all the professions, medicine as well as law and even theology, there were ample accolades, professional and academic, for the time-servers and the equivocators. Dr. "Bill" Lynch stood firm. He was no man to run after a popular bandwagon headed in the morally wrong direction.

No man could have borne so many burdens, cared compassionately for so many people, valiantly defended so many sound positions without a happy home where love and life were durably and radiantly reflected in the devotion of his wife, Mary, and his daughters and sons.

The angels who lead this good man into paradise are doubtless the guardian angels of those children over whose entry into this world he presided and of those children yet unborn who will enjoy life because of his indomitable crusade for their right to live.

— Edward B. Hanify