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## In Memorium: Melvin F. Yelp, M.D.

Francis W. Carney

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## IN MEMORIUM Melvin F. Yeip, M.D.



*Dr. Melvin F. Yeip, former President of the Federation died suddenly at his home on June 22, 1968. He was a Pediatrician in Cleveland. Dr. Yeip led the Federation from 1955 to 1957. He presided at the memorable 25th Anniversary Celebration held at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. This homily delivered by Monsignor Francis W. Carney, former Moderator of the Cleveland Guild, at St. John's Cathedral on June 26th makes a fitting memorial to a stalwart supporter of the Federation on the Board of Past Presidents.*

W.J.E.

### Funeral Mass Dr. Melvin Yeip

Two news commentators discussing the tearlessness of Mrs. Rose Kennedy during the burial ceremony for her son, Senator Robert Kennedy, pointed out that her emotional control was due to the influence of her Catholic Faith. Her Faith was a guarantee against tears. One commentator stated that she believed that her son was given to her by God and had now been given back to God. Catholic theology gives us this view of death as founded in our Faith and in the Sacred Scriptures. Man comes from God and is to return to God.

Today we give back to the earth the body of a good man we have given back to God. We return him to God in a Catholic liturgy of death that he well merits as a fitting climax to a good Catholic life. He is buried in the honor of his Church and with the respect of his many friends.

He was not a perfect man in life or at death, but in life to death in his days he always sought perfection of self as a man and as a Catholic. His quest for

perfection left him at times uneasy with himself and sometimes uneasy with others. However, if he was at times demanding of others that they might be more perfect, he was even harder upon himself, and his heart grew tired in life long before it was stilled in death.

He was a mature man and a mature Catholic, with broad understanding and an ecumenical spirit long before such was fashionable. He related to the whole human family with a graciousness that made human equality appear an easy truth to accept and live by, and thus his friends bear no single quality, but reflect the various good qualities to be found in people-at-large. He made friends not out of selfish motives, but rather for the richness that comes to each out of friendship long-sustained.

He was a man dedicated to the practice of medicine, but medicine did not consume his life. Arts and sciences, law and theology, politics and Church all claimed his serious interests. An elegant conversationalist and storyteller with charm, he very quickly transformed dull silence into exciting social exchange of thought and opinion. He was the fully educated Christian man extolled by Cardinal Newman, whom he greatly admired. His loyalty to country and Church were suitable accompaniments to his loyalty to medicine.

He was a good family man with a pride in his wife and his children. A card from the Yeip's was a meaningful greeting, because it was a familiar greeting. Away from his family his heart was always at home and with a Christian solicitude about their welfare he felt that his work as a husband and father was never done until he had assured their material welfare and prayed them along the path to God.

He was intensely in love with life and the pursuit of the good things of life. His short, measured, quick step, his jutting chin and his firmly pointed index finger and his physical manliness showed his readiness for life and the vitality with which he lived it. Yet in recent months, or perhaps longer, he began to divorce himself from what he loved best and seemed to be preparing for death, as it were, to make leaving life less difficult. His late introspection and aloofness seemed to me, to indicate an unstated desire to be alone, to think more about God and the things of God.

We have returned a good man to God. This can be done by his wife who chose him as her husband in young womanhood; by his children who can be proud he was their father; by men of medicine, because he was a dedicated physician; by his friends, for he was always a good and rewarding friend, and by his Church for an example of Catholic living to all who passed or joined him on the road of life.

Sir Knight, in your green and white,  
May you enjoy God's perpetual light.  
You gave to God your earthly best,  
May He now give you eternal rest.

**Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis W. Carney**