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Safe Practice Insurance

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The episcopal advisor to the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, Archbishop Elko resides in Dayton, Ohio, and is a frequent contributor to Linacre Quarterly.

Loyal members of the Catholic Physicians' Guilds enhance the brilliance of the words in their Hippocratic Oath. It is in alignment with a guiding light of the Church's Holy Spirit. With due reverence we might make application of the common statement that the Holy Fathers used when speaking. No official document carries the word "I"; it is always the word "We", the Holy Spirit and I. Couldn't the model Catholic physician enjoy the strengthening alliance that the Church's magisterium provides with the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation?

Some of the loneliest people are physicians who practice all alone. They fail to enjoy the spiritual companionship of the God Who wants to be with them when they heal and let them receive the thanks. Spiritual visibility is so important for the physician's success. That steady pace of burdensome work — days and weeks and months — almost demands someone to share the long and lonesome road.

Like a soothing balm, the liturgical words, "peace be with you" are applicable to physicians who let God share their responsibility through the directional guidance of His divinely instituted Church of 2,000 years. Membership in the Church means not only responsibility, but also benefits. One of these is a supporting help of God's grace that aids in assuaging the sting of unfair malpractice charges. By practicing God's way and doing his best, the loyal Catholic physician can let God worry about the rest. What is more priceless in a perturbed world than the tranquility of mind which comes from a sharp awareness of Christ's presence, speaking through the Church?

The Guilds' program provides regularly published knowledge in their journal of philosophical and ethical medical practice. Quickly available is current and expert information on matters of medicine and

surgery, the development of new methods, patient treatment, and service development. The physician who is appreciative of the process of gradation will be grateful for the gradual way in which the Creator measures out, through brilliant minds and good will, His cornucopia of new physical and chemical secrets. These are all packaged in a concentrated form and a thriftiness in the doctor's time schedule in the publication.

There is a fellowship which abounds in the annual meeting when physicians from the United States and Canada gather in congenial relaxation to capitalize on each other's productive experience about contemporary Catholic medical ethics within the secure perimeters of safety. It is like holding hands for support. There is a sense of belonging to an inner circle, hallowed by the thought of a protective mantle which the Catholic physician can enjoy, not only here, but also in the hereafter.

Then, too, chaplains selected by the Guilds, approved by the bishop of a respective area, are at the disposition of regional members. They are the spiritual advisors who elucidate the authoritative relevance of the Church's teaching in today's world.
