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From the Editor's Desk



Publications Give 'Right Answers'

When many of us graduated from medical school some years ago, being a practicing physician was relatively uncomplicated. In the ensuing years, however, things have changed dramatically. Besides the clutter and complexities of HMOs, PPOs, IPAs, DRGs, Medicare and so on, we become involved in far-reaching problems of medical-moral ethics. There is in vitro fertilization, contraception, abortion, euthanasia, organ transplantation, surrogate motherhood and the air is rife with controversy all around us, even on the political scene. We sometimes feel assailed from every corner, and in the midst of our busy practices, it is often difficult to formulate our own opinions not only of what is best, but also, more important, what is morally right.

We are fortunate that there are experts on the medical-moral scene who can give us right answers after their own careful study and consideration of the problems. There are publications devoted particularly to current issues and situations, and to these publications we can turn for knowledge and support in our own decision-making.

Linacre Quarterly has long striven to be on the forefront of the medical-moral scene, and numbers among its contributors persons with expertise in the areas of theology, philosophy, medicine and biomedical engineering. *Linacre* also offers solid reviews of the most up-to-date books which deal with medical-moral matters.

Another potent publication is *The Medical-Moral Newsletter*, published monthly (except for July and August) for an annual fee of \$10 by Ayd Medical Communications, 6805 York Rd., Baltimore, Maryland 21212. Father Thomas O'Donnell, S.J., a member of our editorial advisory board serves as editor. Timely and incisive critiques of many biotechnological changes in medicine are given therein. There is discussion of how such changes impact on the medical-moral forte, how they shape the physician's attitude about what is going on today. I feel that reading this publication should be mandatory for physicians on every Christian level.

The Pope John XXIII Center in St. Louis, in whose formation the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was instrumental in the early 1970s, offers a wealth of material through its numerous publications. In addition to *Linacre*, I feel this is "must" reading.

A history of the Pope John Center appears in this issue as does a list of its publications and information on where they can be obtained. The Center puts out a newsletter on a regular basis and this, too, is vital reading if we physicians are to keep up-to-date.

People like our own Vitale Paganelli served on the board of directors, and among the Pope John Center's astute authors are Rev. Albert Moraczewski, O.P. and Rev. Donald McCarthy, Ph.D.

Our ideals of morality are, unfortunately, all too often challenged these days, and we are constantly being called upon to defend them. To fortify our thinking and strengthen our defense of our Christian beliefs, the aforementioned publications serve as invaluable sources of information.

I urge you to avail yourselves of the opportunity to subscribe.

— John P. Mullooly, M.D.