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President's Page: Focus on Catholic Teaching

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President's Page



Focus on Catholic Teaching

'Learn a lesson from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work; they do not spin. Yet I assure you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in such splendor the grass of the fields, which blooms today and is thrown on the fire tomorrow, will He will not provide much more for you, O weak in faith' (Matt 6:28-31)

It is consoling to know that God is always with us. We ask him to "protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

I attended the "International Symposium on Human Sexuality" sponsored by the Human Life International in Washington, D.C. on April 18-21, 1985. Drs. Hanna Klaus, Herb Ratner and John Hildebrand were among the many fine speakers who presented papers on a variety of topics. Many parents from one end of the country to the other voiced their concern regarding formal sex education in the Catholic schools. A non-Catholic professor from a prominent Ivy League university expressed disbelief that this is occurring in the Catholic school system. These parents are asking for help and it is imperative that we NFCPG physicians take the time to determine what and how

these "educational materials" are being promoted in our local Catholic schools. The article authored by Dr. William White, titled "Education in Wholesome Chastity," and supported by the NFCPG was well received and appreciated by the attendees. The article stated: "We stand ready to participate in the development of programs to help parents fulfill their role in the education of their children in matters relating to sex." We must be prepared to meet with resistance for "interfering in the educational program," but continue to enter with charity in our hearts and concern for the souls of all our children. Perhaps the regional directors could compile this information and present it at the board meetings.

There is no doubt that today, society has been given overdoses of secular humanism. Evidence of this is seen in prevailing attitudes among medical students and young physicians entering practice. Society no longer supports the traditional Judeo-Christian ethic. For this reason, the existence of the NFCPG is vitally important today as well as in the future. It is important to reiterate the purpose of the Guild:

1. To uphold the principles of Catholic faith and morality as related to the science and practice of medicine.
2. To cooperate in leading the Christian community, especially with the particular medical expertise and experience of the Catholic physician, to understand, develop, and apply Christ's principles of faith and morality to modern medical science and practice.
3. To lead the Christian community in the work of communicating Catholic medical ethics to the medical profession and the community-at-large.
4. To uphold Catholic hospitals in the application of Catholic moral principles in medical practice.
5. To enable Catholic physicians to know one another better and to work together with deeper mutual support and understanding.

An excellent way to disseminate Catholic medical teachings is through the *Linacre Quarterly*. It is quoted by other journals and used as a reference source, e.g., by the American Society of Law and Medicine.

The annual meeting is another means of promulgating Catholic teaching. This year the meeting focuses on "Moral Issues in Medicine," wherein we will present the Catholic teaching on related topics. The "other side" is being widely "practiced" daily. In light of this, it is our hope to "field" any questions raised from the floor during the panel discussion which is planned. To insure this meeting's success, we need your presence and ask you to be prepared to present the problems that are unique to your particular locale. There is much to be gained from these sessions and hopefully they will prove beneficial to all.

Christ's teaching is spread by the way we conduct ourselves in living out His message. I pray that our last session, "Physician, Heal

Thyself" will strengthen you in this regard. For those interested, a healing prayer service will be led by Father Richard Frank, Chaplain of St. Francis Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii, on Saturday afternoon following the last scientific session. On Sunday, an optional tour to Kalaupapa, Molokai, a leper settlement where Father Damien and Mother Marianne labored, has been planned.

Finally, many prayers and much hard work have been undertaken to bring this meeting to fruition and I know the Lord is with us. With confident hope and our Blessed Mother's loving intercession we pray that Christ's teaching will be imparted when we see you in Hawaii in the Fall.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as president this past year.

Aloha and God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Herbert M. Nakata, M. D.