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## Presidents Page

William J. Egan

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## President's Page

With this issue of *THE LINACRE QUARTERLY*, the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds begins its second quarter of a century of effort for Christ. The era, that is now history, was nobly commemorated on June 5, 1957 with a Pontifical Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman. During dinner that evening at the Waldorf-Astoria, the past Presidents and Moderators were honored. This outstanding function during the A.M.A. convention focused the attention of the country on the Guilds and their activities. To Dr. Dan Mulvihill, his dynamic and charming wife and the committee members from the Greater New York Guilds, the officers of the Federation cannot adequately express their sincere thanks for this wonderful Jubilee celebration.

Through these first twenty-five years many have challenged: "Why an organization of Catholic physicians? Catholic doctors are welcomed as members in all existing medical societies. There is no need for a sectarian medical group." The answer is simply that a Guild is an organization of Catholic men in medicine for Catholic Action.

Pope Pius XI defined Catholic Action as a participation by the laity in the apostolate of the Church's Hierarchy. An apostolate, further, is a mission for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Catholic Action is necessary for two reasons: 1. The organization of evil can be overcome only by the organization of good; 2. The clergy cannot suffice for the needs of Christian restoration because its numbers are too few.

A Catholic physician readily falls into one of four categories: First, the Catholic by birth whose faith has been cultivated at home and developed by strong parochial education at each level of education. This doctor brings into his practice a strong motivation by and for God. Secondly, the Catholic by birth with similar opportunities but who at higher levels of education has changed his goal from the spiritual to the material. The third group includes the Catholic by birth whose faith has never been cultivated or developed and who has become an unhappy wanderer constantly in search of the reason for his discontent. Into the fourth group falls the convert to the Faith who glories in what he has found and seeks to rapidly acquire a life-time of knowledge about his newly found treasure.

A Guild, then, has specific and spiritual reasons for existence: to make happier the strong in their Faith; to make stronger the weak; to reclaim the wanderer, and to educate those seeking knowledge. This is the "why" of Catholic men in medicine united for Catholic Action in diocesan Guilds.

WILLIAM J. EGAN, M.D.