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# Activities of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds

Joe E. Holoubek

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## ACTIVITIES OF THE NA ONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHY CIANS' GUILDS

JOE E. HOLO K. M.D.\*

IN THE NAME of our president, Dr. Eusebius J. Murphy of Bronx, New York, I wish to extend the greetings of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds to all of you attending the IX International Congress of Catholic Doctors. I consider it a privilege to be asked to speak to this group and to bring you a report of the activities of your American colleagues.

The National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was formulated in 1927 by the late Dr. Richard A. Rendich in Brooklyn, New York, following a retreat for Brooklyn Catholic physicians. The "retreat group" became a "Guild." These physicians practiced in their daily lives the inspiration they had received in the retreat. The movement spread slowly, with the majority of Guilds organizing in eastern United States. It was in 1932 that the various groups were united as one. and the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds was founded.

The objectives of the Federation are:

To uphold the principles of the Catholic faith and morality as related to the science and practice of medicine.

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To assist ecclesiastical authori-3 in the diffusion of the knowlge of Catholic medical ethics. To uphold Catholic hospitals their enforcement of Catholic vral principles in medical prac-P.

To these others may be added: To increase the spiritual life of Catholic doctor.

To make all doctors conscious their dependence upon God in eir daily practice of medicine.

In 1944 the Catholic Hospital ssociation offered its offices in St. Louis as a permanent location the national headquarters. For Growth was slow. In fact, there vere only eleven Guilds in 1948. There were 60 in 1957 and in 1960 there are now 91 affiliated Guilds in the United States. Canada, Puerto Rico, with a total membership of 6,110. (Figure 1 shows the location of the individual Guilds.)

Individual Guilds vary in membership from 600 in Boston to 8 in Sheridan, Wyoming. They may include the Catholic physicians in \*Dr. Holoubek of Shreveport, Louisiana is First Vice-President of the National Federation. As an official delegate to the IX International Congress of Cath-olic Doctors held in Munich, Germany he gave this address on July 28, 1960.

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an entire city, 🗠 one county se. The entire sta an entire d of Arkansa is covered by o Guild, located in Little Rock. / you see in Figure 2, the State Louisiana is the most complete organized. There are 8 separa Guilds in the State. Each is 1 cated in a central city and t Catholic doctors in the surroun ing territory are invited to jc their local Guild. The heavi populated areas such as New C leans and Baton Rouge have lar membership. On the other han there are only 11 in the large ar around Monroe. We have reache the goal of a Guild within 50 mile of the home of every Catholic phy sician in the State of Louisian. Other States are also organizing in this manner. Every diocese in the State of New York has a Guild. The goal of every Catholic doctor in America belonging to a Guild is still far from achieved.

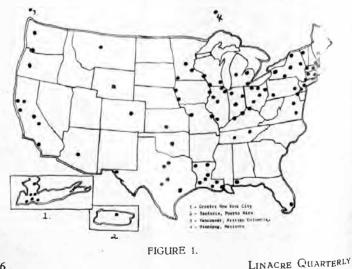
We estimate that there are sor e 35,000 Catholic physicians in c r country. In the future, we hope ll will be members of their lo al groups.

#### National Board

The Board of Delegates of ur Federation is composed of elected national officers and one resentative from each affiliated G-ld. The Board meets twice annuin the summer during the Arican Medical Association geconvention and again in the wi-ter.

#### The Linacre Quarterly

The official journal of the National Federation of Catholic hysicians' Guilds is THE LIP CRE QUARTERLY. It is devoted to promoting the philosophy and hics of medical practice. It is in ality a medium to bring together atholic theology and medical s ence. The circulation of the Ma 1960



issue was 10.360. It is received by all Guild members. Other subscribers are medical schools, hospital libraries and members of the clergy.

### Guilds in Action

Guilds in Action is a newsletter sent to members. It contains a list of activities of the groups, announcements of interest to all members, and a section to help Catholic doctors find locations to practice.

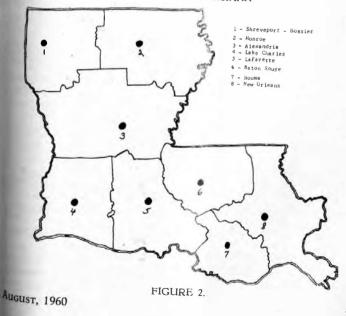
### Memorial Mass

A Memorial Mass for all deceased members of the American Medical Association is offered annually during the summer meeting. All officers and delegates of the Association, Catholic physicians their families attending the M.A. convention are invited to nd. It is usually held at 5:00 and celebrated by the Modor of the Federation, presided t by the Bishop of the diocese. ne 550 persons assisted at the ss in Miami, Florida, June 15 year.

#### leration Exhibit

Since 1956 the Federation has ubited at the American Medical sociation annual convention. e booth has a large display utled "Moral Principles in Medl Practice." It is staffed by mbers of Guilds. Copies of THE NACRE QUARTERLY and publitions explaining medico-moral pinciples are distributed. Many h ndreds of non-Catholic as well

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as Cathol: physicians visit the exhibit and arn about our belief and princip

#### Thomas Linacre Award

Periodically, the Thomas Linac Award is given to the Catho physician contributing an article THE LINACRE QUARTERLY judg by an editorial board to be me valuable in content to promote t interests of the journal in its effo to express opinions in the light Catholic teaching as applied medical practice. In 1957 D Roy J. Heffernan and William Lynch received the Award f their article "Is Therapeutic Abc tion Scientifically Justified?" 1958 it was received by Dr. Eugen G. Laforet for his contribution. "Boxing, Medical and Moral A pects." An Award will be made to a medical student in the future should worthy contributions be received, to encourage writing in the medico-moral field.

#### Catholic Physician of the Year

This Award to the Catholic Physician of the Year is presented at the winter meeting of the Federation to a Catholic doctor who is outstanding in his medical and spiritual life. Recipients have been the late Dr. Edward M. Gans, Harlowton, Montana, in 1957; the late Dr. Joseph J. Toland, Jr., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1958, and Dr. John J. Masterson of Brooklyn, New York, in 1959.

#### The White Mass

Since 1954, the Guilds have been urged to celebrate the "White Mass" to honor St. Luke, Patron 108 of Physicians, on October 18. The Mass is offered in cathedrals, prish churches, and hospital chap Is, the choice being local with the sponsoring Guilds. Many Catlor hospitals in areas where ther is no active Guild observe the coasion, inviting their medical softs and hospital personnel to attor.

#### Silver Jubilee Celebration

The largest social functio of the National Federation wa the Silver Jubilee celebration he in New York City, June 5, 1957 An anniversary Mass was celeb ted at St. Patrick's Cathedral at :00 a.m. In the evening a banque and ball were held at the Wa orf-Astoria Hotel with guests ex eding 1,100. Representatives vere present from all of the na onal medical organizations. Ge eral Carlos Romulo of the Phil pine Republic addressed the gro .

#### Local Guild Activities

Each Guild is autonomout in its program and organization. Some have monthly meetings; othe plan quarterly sessions. Programs are planned to serve the spiritual needs of member physicians.

Retreats are sponsored. All Guild members are encouraged to make one annually.

Days of Recollection are often held in local hospital chapels. These usually begin with 9:00 o'clock Mass on Sunday, followed by three or four spiritual conferences and periods of meditation throughout the day.

A *Requiem Mass* for deceased members of a local group is usually celebrated by the Moderator once

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a year. Nocturnal Adoration, First Friday Communion and other spiritual activities are sponsored. Enrichment of the spiritual life of the doctor is the primary purpose of these activities. Members are urged to spend a certain period of each day in meditation.

In the State of Louisiana a Memorial Mass is celebrated for deceased members of the Louisiana State Medical Society at its annual meeting. Officers and members, Catholic and non-Catholic, are invited to attend. Families of deœased members are sent special invitations. Arrangements for the Mass are taken care of by the Guild in the city where the Medical Society has its annual meeting.

#### Medical Care Functions

Some Guilds provide medical care to indigent groups, homes for the aged and orphanages. Others supply medical care to large diocesan gatherings where physicians might be needed.

#### Health Program for Parochial School Children

The New Orleans, Louisiana Guild supplies physicians to examine needy first grade school children. Necessary inoculations are provided. A "healthmobile" for hearing tests, visual, and dental examinations is also sponsored.

#### Health Program for Religious and Clergy

The requests for help to establish a health-care program for religious and clergy has prompted The Catholic Hospital Association and the National Federation of August, 1960 holic Physicians' Guilds to pree an examination form for enice as well as annual check-up ch is part of the plan to assist this area. A pilot project was ducted in the dioceses of Alexria and New Orleans, Louisii. Through this program, each gious and priest receives a hplete examination with roenttogram of the chest and necesy laboratory work each year. 'r. Alice Baker Holoubek disses the subject in a separate per.)

#### ug Program for the Missions

Several Guilds have organized bups that pick up unused drug s nples from physicians' offices d ship them to the foreign misns. More than \$750,000 worth drug samples have been sent to r edy Catholic mission hospitals overseas, through the efforts of the New Orleans, Louisiana Guild. The effort is being extended to include the entire State.

#### **Medical Student Groups**

Many Guilds devote special attention to medical students, hospital internes and residents. In some areas they are invited to participate in Guild activities and receive THE LINACRE QUARTERLY. Discussion groups for medical students are organized in some areas and regular meetings are held to consider medico-moral principles. Non-Catholic students are invited to attend.

#### Medico-Moral Problems Institutes

Periodically, meetings with hospital sisters, chaplains, nurses, and physicians are held in various

localities the discussion of medico-mo problems. Promin theologians conduct the sessio Guilds in the area often sponsor special evening for discussion specific problems. Courses ( given to graduate and stude nurses on medical ethics. Ot conferences on such topics as h nosis, moral considerations in ra ology, the Catholic physician as pre-marital counsellor and fam counsellor have been among the discussed. Books concerning me ico-moral principles are distr uted to local hospitals, medischools and nursing libraries some of the groups.

#### **Research Grants**

Research grants have been st ported by some Guilds, to stimula this activity in Catholic hospita

### High School Students and Medicine

In some areas. Guilds provide speakers for local Catholic high schools to encourage young men and women to choose medicine as a career.

#### State-wide Activities

In Louisiana, the officers and Moderators of the eight Guilds in the State have a meeting once a year and discuss their programs and related activities. A newsletter is published monthly and distributed to 400 members throughout the State.

#### **Social Activities**

A number of Guilds have dinner meetings to which members' wives 110 are invited. Speakers discuss tor cs of mutual interest. Needless to say, cooperation of the spouse is essential for the success of ny Guild activity.

#### Medical Mission Activities

Foreign mission activities are becoming a concern to the Jational Federation of Catholic I nysicians' Guilds as well as to A erican Catholics. Some Guilds are encouraging programs to fam iarize themselves with the me ical mission activities of the Church. A few members have gor to mission hospitals to teach and work. Internes and resident are being urged to devote one to hree years of their lives in the s vice of God in the medical missic s of His Church, Outstanding along these are the Los Angeles, California Guild that is spon ring three physicians in the A ican missions and the Detroit, Michigan Guild that is sending a hysician to operate a mission h spital in Guatemala. At the recent summer meeting of the Federation in Miami, Florida a committe was appointed to study methods of correlating medical mission activities of the various Guilds and to develop a program that would promote service in the Catholic mission field.

Needless to say, the activities of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds and its various affiliates are varied. However, the basic aim is to bring spiritual counsel and moral guidance to the physician so that he may be a more deeply religious LINACRE QUARTERLY man and a better Catholic in his daily practice of medicine.

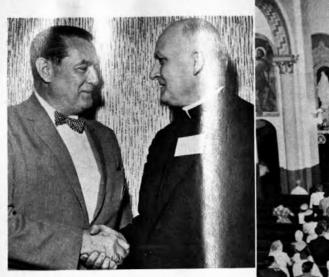
I will close with the *Physician's Prayer* which has been adopted by the Federation:

Divine Healer of the sick, Christ Jesus Our Lord. without whose aid I can do nothing, look down with favor upon me. e skill to my hand, clear vision to my d, kindness and sympathetic underding to my heart. Give me singleness surpose, strength to lighten at least a t of the burden of my suffering fellowand a true realization of the privilege t is mine. Direct my work that it may praiseworthy in Thy sight and sucsful unto those entrusted to my care. The me the strong and simple faith of hild that I may rely on Thee, and in things do Thy will. Amen.

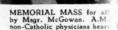
## PLAN NOW. ... for THE WHITE MASS

#### OCTOBER 18, FEAST OF ST. LUKE PATRON OF HYSICIANS

ANNUAL MASS OFFERED B MEMBERS OF THE MEDI-CAL PROFESSION AND ALL OTHERS DEVOTED TO THE CARE OF THE SICK. HONOR ST. LUKE, PATRON OF PHYSICIANS.



DR. FRANKLYN E. VERDON of Coral Gables. Florida receives congratulations of Father John J. Flanagan. S.J.. editor of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY and executive director of The Catholic Hospital Association, following his appointment as Federation secretary. Dr. Verdon is a member of the Miami Guild.





officers, formal medical society members. Catholic and hishop Colors he sermon,

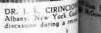


MASS ERVERS during Memorial Mass were members of the Mami Guild. Dr. Lauth is shown as he serves Msgr. McGowan, who distributed Holy Communion to physician and their families.

#### HIGHLIGHTS NAL FEDERATION ACTIVITIES LORIDA JUNE 13-17, 1960 • Executive Board Meeting • Memorial Mass



DR. EUSEBIUS J. MURPHY. Bronx, N. Y. national federation president, is shown with Msgr. Donald A. McGowan, the federation's national moderator: Bishop Coleman, F. Carroll of the Miami diocese, and Dr. Edward J. Lauth, Jr., president of the Miami Catholic Physi-cians' Guid. Photographed at the booth sponsored at the A.M.A. anual covention where the Catholic viewpoint on medical-moral problems was explained to visitors.





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GUILD REPRESENTATIVES attending the annual meeting of the national federation executive board meeting. June 15. Dr. Clement P. Cunningham, Rock Island. Ill. and second vice-president of the national organization, is explaining plan for Guild membership drive.