Patrick D. Guinan, MD, MPH (1936–2017)

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As the Catholic world was celebrating the feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 9 of this year, a great Catholic physician quietly passed into eternity, not noticed by much of the city of Chicago to which he dedicated so much of his efforts and resources. He would have liked to know that he went out without any fanfare because he never sought any credit or honors for himself. This was Patrick D. Guinan, MD, MPH, professor and chairman emeritus of the Department of Urology, University of Illinois as well as president of the Catholic Physicians' Guild of Chicago for many years. Pat was born on April 11, 1936, on the south side of Chicago and grew up in a typical Irish American family who attended Saint Philip Neri Parish. There Pat attended grade school. As a teenager, he felt that God was calling him to the priesthood, and so he applied and was admitted to the Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary, the minor seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Although a steadfast defender and servant of the Church until his dying breath, he felt toward the end of high school that God was calling him somewhere else than the priesthood, and therefore he set his mind and heart toward medicine. He completed his internship at Cook County Hospital in 1962. He then served in the Vietnam War, returning after his tour of duty to finish the Urology Residency Program at Cook County Hospital in 1969. From 1970 until 1975, he served as director of urology at the Chicago Department of Health, at the same time receiving a master's in public health degree from Columbia University in 1975. He was also on the faculty of Cook County Hospital, where he met and fell in love with his wife, Peggy, who was a psychiatrist working there. They were married in 1972. He then served as chairman of the Division of Urology at Cook County Hospital from 1975 until 1985, while serving concurrently as chairman of the Division of Urology at the University of Illinois at

Chicago College of Medicine from 1978 until 1985. He continued to serve as a member of the urology faculty at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and he also dedicated himself to the Hektoen Institute of Medicine, which is dedicated to promoting medical research and education for physicians and other health-care professionals as well as access to health care for the underserved. Dr. Guinan was chairman of the board, secretary, and treasurer at Hektoen until the last years of his life.

Dr. Guinan's greatest contributions were in the realm of Catholic bioethics and promoting Catholic teachings to health-care professionals, especially students. He was president of Catholic Physicians' Guild of Chicago for many years, when the Chicago Guild was just one of a handful of guilds of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) still in existence after the CMA lost much of its membership following the upheavals in the late 1960s surrounding Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae vitae*. Dr. Guinan, a fearless advocate of Hippocratic values and solid Catholic bioethics, kept the Catholic Physicians' Guild in Chicago active and important, until the CMA again started expanding in the last twenty years, being actively involved in the early years of that expansion. For example, he was the key person in helping organize, as well as financially support, the Milwaukee Guild of the CMA. He was instrumental in founding and supporting the Catholic

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Medical Student Association, which is now the student section of the CMA. He was actively involved in the leadership of the CMA as well. He was a great supporter and main financial contributor to the Saint John Paul II Newman Center of the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 1997, through this Newman Center, he founded the Integritas Institute for Ethics, which is very active in promoting Catholic bioethics through frequent conferences and educational programs serving in particular the secular, state-run University of Illinois College of Medicine, and therefore an amazing counterbalance to the secular, and many times anti-Christian worldview taught at such institutions. In addition, Dr. Guinan organized official bioethics courses available for credit for fourth-year medical students at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, and he invited noted Catholic bioethicists to teach the course, such as Dr. John Brehany who would later serve as the executive director of the CMA. The course was always full and one of the more popular courses available at the medical school. Dr. Guinan also pushed for the establishment of and funded the chair of a Catholic studies program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He was also a great funder of bioethics programming at Relevant Radio, a major Catholic radio station reaching twenty-nine states and sixty-five million listeners. One of the greatest difficulties in writing this biography of Pat Guinan is that he was so humble and quiet about his contributions that I suspect what I mention here is just a fraction of the amazing contributions he made in promoting Catholicism and sound bioethics in Chicago and the entire country. He rarely let his signature be seen on any of his accomplishments, like the great medieval artists who built the cathedrals in Europe. God, however, knows the great things he has done; and I hope and pray he is now receiving his just reward for them.

Dr. Guinan was also a prolific writer and promoter of important scientific and bioethical literature. He has numerous publications on his record, in urology, the history of medicine, and bioethics. Many of his articles were published in the *Linacre Quarterly*, and he kept writing and publishing even in the last years of his life, though his health started failing.

He wrote, cowrote, and edited several books, some of them which are available through the Internet. These include *A History of Surgery at Cook County Hospital* with Kenneth J. Printen, James L. Stone, and James S. T. Yao (Northfield, IL: Amika Press, 2015); *After Asceticism: Sex, Prayer, and Deviant Priests* (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2006), which dealt with the real reasons for the priest

sexual scandals of the past few decades; and also books promoting Hippocratic and Catholic ethics such as *Hippocrates Is Not Dead: An Anthology of Hippocratic Readings* (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2011), *Hippocratic and Judeo-Christian Medical Ethics* with John Brehany (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2007), *Genetics: A Catholic Ethical Perspective* (Bloomington, IN: 1st Book Library, 2001), and *Catholic Medical Ethics: Core Reading* with Ted Jagielo (Bloomington, IN: 1st Book Library, 1999). He also wrote a wonderful biography of his uncle, Father Daniel Casey, O.P., a missionary in China, titled *Shen Fu* along with other members of Fr. Casey's family (2017).

Pat Guinan had remarkable accomplishments, a brilliant mind, a glowing personality full of energy, and natural leadership ability. He knew how to lead, how to find the talents in others, and how to use that knowledge for both the advancement of that person and the advancement of some important cause through that person. Despite all this, his greatest attribute was his humility. If you met Dr. Guinan, you would not think that at first (with his glowing, extroverted personality), but when you got to know him, you saw that humility was the signature virtue of his life. This was a true Christian humility in which he would be first in undertaking leadership roles others were not willing to undertake and then using that role to advance others. He would do the bulk of the work to organize an event or get a publication into print or get an agreement between feuding sides and then would give all the credit for these accomplishments to someone else. Dr. Guinan mentored many young, Catholic physicians and students, and this seemed to be one of his greatest sources of joy. His goal was always to promote Catholicism and Catholic ethics, to evangelize the medical world, and to catechize Catholic health-care professionals.

I last saw Pat when I visited his home in downtown Chicago in July. He was still his spritely self, with his amazing brain still working at full throttle, trying to figure out in detail what was behind his own medical problems, which were neurological in nature. I last talked to him just a few weeks before his death, and the news of his untimely death was certainly a shock. I will miss him dearly, not only as a friend, but because he was truly a giant of a man. He was a man who truly deserves a monument honoring him, but who will never get one because he was only concerned about loving God and serving his fellow man and never about promoting himself or his own achievements. No, society does not honor such heroes, but God certainly does.