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From the Editor's Desk

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From the Editor's Desk



The Catholic Physician

How does the Catholic physician react to the movements in our society which show an increasing disrespect for the dignity and sacredness of human life? Witness the increasing movements toward abortion, euthanasia and fetal research, swirling around us. With the advent of the Clinton administration with its lifting of restrictions on abortion, the Freedom of Choice Act in Congress, the lifting of restrictions on fetal research, we see the prolife movement suffering. The recent movement in the Netherlands towards euthanasia is but another sign of the further degradation of human society.

For the Catholic physician these developments have a depressing effect for they go against everything that the physician stands for. While all these developments in modern society find their etiology in a totally secularistic materialistic philosophy, it does not help us in our quest for peace of mind. The mind rejoices in truth and is disturbed by the evil that one sees around us every day. It seems that the forces of evil are overwhelming the forces of good and it is discouraging to those who seek after justice and truth. What is the answer to those who are seeking and not finding? The answers to these questions are found in the hope given by the scriptures. The scriptures continue to echo in our ears that we shall find our hope in the God who made us and who is working with us every day. If we find our enemies succeeding we are not to give up hope. We are to continue to pray and fast and to look forward to the morrow. We are to continue to trust in the Lord and to look confidently to the future. For it is His World and He will continue to watch over us and to sustain and guide us. While discouraging developments are ever present, it is time for us to reflect upon the

world in which we live as but a transient time. As we look forward to eternity we should rejoice in the fact that we as Catholic physicians have been faithful to our calling and to our vocation. In our words, deeds, and actions, we have tried to be other Christs to our fellow man: We have stood out as a sign of contradiction to those who do not value the sacredness and dignity of human life. It is this vision of life that should sustain and guide the Catholic physician in these troublesome times.

It is to this vision of life that we Catholic physicians are committed. It is to this vision that we must band together and sustain each other. It is to this vision that we should devote our energies, knowing that we are doing God's work in this world and giving witness to the world that God, in His providence and wisdom, will bring all things together unto good. It is for this that we carry on to the end, knowing that this vision of life will ultimately prevail and redound to His glory.

— **John P. Mullooly, M.D.**
