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Message From the Spiritual Advisor

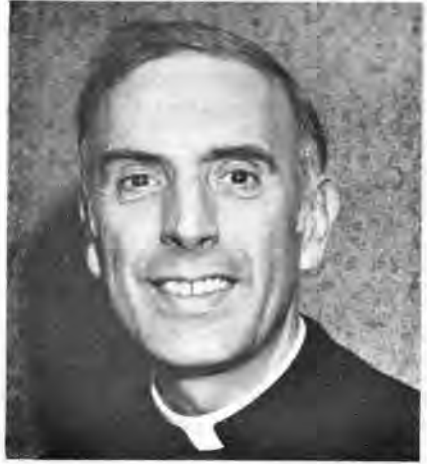
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



One of the most difficult challenges in life is facing up to the truth. This is indeed painful at times, yet it is in so doing that we profess our integrity as sacred persons.

There is no compromise with truth! IT IS! For example, human life is in the fertilized ovum — many would like to think otherwise, but that is the fact.

For a physician to defend the truth is to undertake one of the most troublesome realities in his profession. Many medical colleagues are “chained” to profitable programs that promote an untruth; they search endlessly for “truth,” or rather, for answers that best suit their mode of behavior.

When conscious of surgery that is contrary to the Hippocratic Oath, or dispensing medication for social reasons that do harm to the body, or when advocating legislation not beneficial to the total well being of an individual, then there is dishonesty. The truth is suppressed, goodness ignored and the concern becomes selfish rather than loving — the patient becomes a victim wounded by the healer as he travels in life to his final goal.

You are well aware of what happens when dealing with patients who wrestle with the truth. They develop all kinds of anxieties, frustrations and “hang-ups.” Nature seems to torture them for they know that they have lied. One of the main reasons why they hate themselves for having lied is that they have abused the precious gift of speech — a gift given only to humans, “created a little less than the angels,” and this gift is perverted.

Pilate, when seeing Truth, asked the question of Jesus, “What is truth?” Pilate was perplexed, and rightly so. He had a face-to-face

conflict between his vocation and his voice which led, as you know, to the "destruction" of Truth.

As Catholic physicians, there is no need to be afraid in speaking loudly and clearly, for God is with you. In the Sacred Scriptures, there are some three hundred passages of the Word of God where the importance of truth is proclaimed. St. John summarizes them by saying "the truth shall make you free."

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Yes, it is through Him on our pilgrim journey that we stay on the right road which leads to eternal life. For the traveler who does not know the "way" and is given wrong information it becomes mighty hard, if not impossible, to arrive at the proper destination. As men and women of God, being instruments of His truth, you are the voice that can show the way, thus directing His people to life and holiness.

As leaders in the community, witnessing the Truth, you are His prophets. You call it "as it is," and as written in the psalms, "Your truth lasts from age to age."

— Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti

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