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## Message from the Spiritual Advisor

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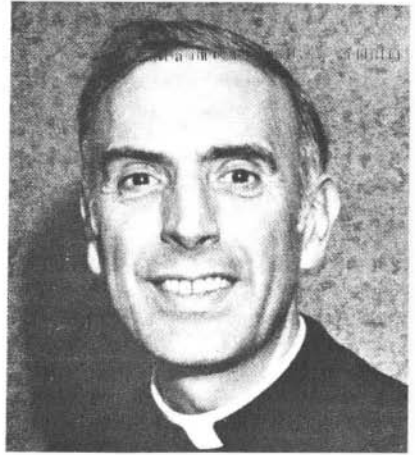
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## Message from the Spiritual Advisor



In speaking on the reign of God to His disciples, Jesus told a parable of a wedding feast where ten bridesmaids awaited the coming of the groom. He went on to explain that of the ten, only half, or five of the women, had prepared themselves with sufficient oil to keep their lamps burning in readiness for his arrival. These bridesmaids were called sensible, or the prudent ones.

From time immemorial, the Church (which constitutes the people of God) has been understood to be the “bride” of Christ. St. Paul says, “Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the Church and gave His life for it” (Eph. 5:25). In this metaphor, all who are baptized in the Church, both male and female, are “brides” of Christ. Thus, the “wise bridesmaids” of the scriptures are those individuals who are always prudently awake, preparing for “His coming,” looking forward to the glorious union with Christ.

As Catholic physicians, you are among those prudent bridesmaids who are vigilant, who have invested your energies not on perishable vanities, but on values that are lasting, namely the eternal kingdom. Jesus spoke of these values that constitute His kingdom, and lists them as feeding the poor (with food, knowledge and the necessities of life), caring for the sick (those in need of healing, both of mind and body), visiting the the prisoner (the depressed, the drug addict, the shut-in, the unloved), clothing the naked (with garments of dignity, hope, and the security of their civil rights) and above all, treating with love the whole person, so that God is praised in His glory.

Unfortunately, some physicians, like the foolish bridesmaids, are not alert. They have fallen asleep and are not ready for the call that "the groom has arrived." Being apathetic, greedy, sinfully proud, and having developed a hardness of heart, they have become so lethargic (their lanterns are extinguished — they have burned out in futility), that they are spiritually unprepared for the coming of the Lord.

As the years pass, one's conscience is challenged with the question, "Are your talents being used to the best of your ability?" Hopefully, all dedicated physicians are able to say, "Yes, they are."

A talent is only a talent, until it is given away — then, it becomes a gift. Gifts are those talents which we have received and willingly, lovingly share with others.

When Christians are anointed in Christ at baptism, they are empowered as "priest, prophet and *king*," and the kingly action of their lives takes place when they give these gifts magnanimously to "their subjects." As the gifts are regally shared, something of beauty occurs. There is a change that takes place for the better in the giver as well as the recipient. As both are touched, the mystery of peace, happiness, holiness and healing ensues. There is an uplifting, a jubilation, a foretaste of "resurrection."

Jesus Christ, our King, gave Himself as His gift to us all. While dying on the cross, He asked the Father to forgive mankind and to accept His death as His royal gift to us in order that man's fallen nature might be uplifted to the kingdom.

In the eucharistic liturgy, the Church proclaims the mystery of faith with the acclamation, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." As enlightened Christians exhorted to "lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light," we do believe that, being sealed with the oil of salvation, prudently awaiting His coming, our Risen Savior abides in us. There is no time to delay, but immediately we must prepare to become more compassionate, forgiving, and generous — voicing protests against harmful legislation to our brothers and sisters, and above all, witnessing Christ as His kingly people.

*Your kingly throne awaits your coming*, as the reward of being His faithful bride. Your talents generously given become kingly gifts and will endure forever. Since you are truly "churched" as His bride, you will be welcomed by Him, Christ Himself — your groom — to share at His royal banquet prepared for those, *yes you*, who love Him.

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti