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The Catholic Physician

REV. DINO J. LORENZETTI

The *Catholic* physician, by his very title is someone more than a doctor who is a specialist in curing the sick, a respectable gentleman in the community, and a learned spokesman. Through his baptism, he is given a special commission, invested in his person which is inseparable from his profession. He is to bring the Light of Christ to his fellowman.

Primitive man feared two great evils; sickness and darkness—sickness as the unknown enemy that destroyed him from within, and darkness which helped his enemy to destroy him from without. With both he was helpless.

Ancient man somehow associated life with light. With the warmth of the sun, plants "took" life, and in the brightness of the day he could see his enemy and thus protect his life from the aggressor.

The medical doctor was always recognized as a man of vision gifted with knowledge, artistic ability, and natural talents exceeding the men of his day. His profession trained him to discern the darkness of disease and with his skill, assist his fellowman to greater health and life.

Christ, the Divine Physician and "Light of the World" during His public life restored sight to the blind, health to the sick, and knowledge to the ignorant. In His love for mankind, He inspired those who wished to follow Him, in the Way, the Truth and the Life. A *Way* the *Truth* can

be brought to *Life* is for each "enlightened" Catholic physician to live in a Christlike manner, serving God the Father, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in assisting His people walking in the darkness of sickness and sin.

The Catholic physician striving for perfection in his vocation should listen to the voice of the Divine Healer. In so doing, he will become conscious, through the light of Christ, of the needs of his brothers crying not only from physical pain but also from economic, social, and psychological sufferings. He should become sensitized to the needs of each individual with a soul that will live for eternity. Each patient should be considered a person calling with a need and not a "case number." For some, the Catholic physician should respond with words of comfort; others may need his guidance through a critical stage, and still others his willingness to complete necessary medical and governmental forms.

Every client needs the doctor's time, patience and love. It is here where the Catholic physician should excel over his colleagues through his personal love and concern for everyone. When this is accomplished, then the words of Christ will re-echo "Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of My brethren, you did it for Me."

In the Buffalo community, Catholic physicians have shown a tremendously generous dedication to

God and man in helping the sick, the poor and the aged. In addition, through their magnanimous contribution of time, they have taught more than 75,000 young adults preparing for marriage. Their untiring efforts in assisting the married in child-spacing, the students in marriage courses and the nurses in medical training has brought them and all of us manifold blessings in this City of Good Neighbors.

The people of God have been

healthier and holier through the influence of the Catholic physician and the nobility of his profession has been enhanced by his generosity. May God reward him for his response to His people, and grant him life eternal for his dedicated service.

REVEREND DINO J. LORENZETTI, specializing in family life work for the past nine years, is director of the Family Life Department, Diocese of Buffalo. After ordination in 1953 he was assistant at Holy Cross Church for five years.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS' GUILD TO BE HELD IN CALIFORNIA . . . NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3

The place — the beautiful Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, just outside Los Angeles! The hotel, as the name implies, is adjacent to the famed Disneyland. Bring the family and stay for a week in this Southern California playground. This meeting follows the AMA Clinical Sessions scheduled for November 26-30 in Houston, Texas and those attending could easily be present for the NFCPG Conference.