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Pope Paul VI Speaks to Surgeons ...

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professions. For example, a lawyer, in search of clients might try to obtain accident suits by promising to split his fee with a hospital attendant who will recommend him to patients brought to the hospital after accidents. The moral dangers connected with such a practice are similar to those just described in the case of the fee-splitting doctor.

Because of the dangers of sin involved in fee-splitting, as well as because of the disgrace it brings to professional conduct, fee-splitting is condemned by all professional codes. It is

difficult to see how any professional person can resort to this practice without the guilt of sin. In addition to the objectionable features already described, the fee-splitter is a source of scandal to those who become aware that he is addicted to this degrading practice. It is the duty of Catholics especially, in any form of professional life, to avoid this abuse of their professional services.

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Pope Paul VI speaks to Surgeons . . .

Speaking to participants at the 20th International Congress of General and Cardiovascular Surgeons, the Pope said the human body, whose physical and biological secrets they explore, is a holy place where divinity resides:

"Yes, divinity is there. Be on your guard! Human ways are saturated with the thought of God. Man is in His image. Still more, when grace sanctifies man, his body is not only the instrument of his mind and its organ, it is also the mysterious temple of the Holy Spirit. God lives there.

"In other words, a new concept of the flesh of man opens before our eyes, a concept which does not disturb the vision of physical and biological reality but which on the contrary clarifies it. It fills this vision with a new attraction, an attraction which surpasses sensible and aesthetic attraction.

"It is an attraction, however, which is so real and so powerful and sometimes so evil and fatal, and — shall we say — mystic. It is a new attraction which is suggested neither by pleasure nor beauty but one which the love of Christ inspires."

After expressing his admiration of members of the medical profession, which he described as a "difficult, delicate and providential" calling, the Pope said they were benefactors of the human race in exercising their skills "in keeping with the superior and permanent laws of morality."

"You well deserve to be praised and thanked for all the pain you relieve, and for all the diseases you overcome, as well as by all those who have been saved from suffering and death," the pontiff stated.