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From the Spiritual Advisor ...

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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The Federation is losing several of its Regional Directors, and these will be sorely missed. I want to especially thank the Regional Director of Region II, Dr. Vitali Paganelli, for his help during the past year and hope he might continue to work closely with us in the future, although I realize that his commitments to his practice and family do come first.

I also wish to thank the many, many friends in the organization for their help during the past year and I know they will give the same heart-warming cooperation to my successor, Dr. Charles Pfister.

Respectfully submitted,

James H. Masterson, M.D.
President

***From The
Spiritual Advisor ...***



Fr. Charles Scherer

“By the mysterious mingling of this wine and water may we come to share in the Divinity of Christ – Who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.”

Years ago, in our study of math, we learned the easily demonstrable principle: “The whole is equal to the sum of its parts.”

Not much later, we discovered the limitations of this axiom in application to other fields. The beauty of Beethoven’s Fifth certainly far exceeded the total musical worth of the notes involved. In our experience, a truly winning team seemed to possess a certain intangible – whether spirit or ability – that eclipsed the mathematical sum of the individuals’ talents. Chemically, compounds took on a 3rd or 4th dimension and a power non-existent in the isolated elements before combination.

Arithmetically, perhaps the whole is only equal to the sum total of the

addition of its parts. — In most other considerations indeed: The whole is not equal to, but far greater than the sum of its parts.

So it is with man! The human person is more than just an aggregate of physical and even spiritual components.

Medical science for years has recognized and acted on the “principle of totality” — sacrificing a diseased part which jeopardizes the far more important good of the whole. And following the excision the person is in a true sense no less whole. When such a surgical procedure is performed there is a double positive result. Not only is the total (or whole) good of the person improved but the particular good of each individual part is also consequently enhanced. From the concern for the whole — to the destruction of a part — to the good of the whole and the betterment of every remaining part!

Spiritually, our concern for the good of the Whole Body (the Mystical Body of Christ) is an approach which will likewise guarantee the good of the individual members of that Body. What we do for the Whole is done for the part — just as we have Christ’s word that whatsoever we do for the least of His brethren, we do for Him.

We are all members of His Body! When one is sick, we all suffer. When one is healed, we are all strengthened. But only through and in Christ — only in that we are no longer our own, but His. In Him we live and move, we falter and heal, and have our very being.

As we work with the parts — let us be ever conscious of the Whole.

Through Him, with Him and in Him,
Father Charles Scherer