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Message from the Spiritual Advisor

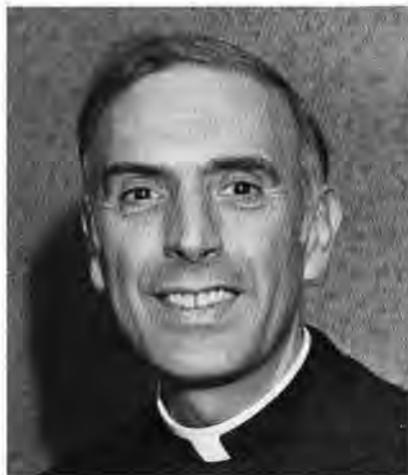
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Message From the Spiritual Advisor



To achieve dedication in life, it is necessary to have purpose. For many, it is money, power, pleasure, property or popularity. However, for the person dedicated to God, his purpose is to love and render service to his fellowman.

The Catholic physician is mainly concerned with restoring the sick back to health, through God's help, and when unable to do so, to assist his patient in preparing for a new or for his eternal life.

Our Divine Saviour, Jesus Christ, gave the world a norm by which to live. He said, "Greater love than this no man has than he who gives his *life* for his fellowman." Some have interpreted this as one who surrenders his life only in a dramatic action as a soldier in the height of battle, or one volunteering a vital human organ, even at great personal risk, for the good of another. Yet few are called to this type of heroism, whereas all are called to the same degree of charity.

A modern exegete might explain the statement made by Christ, changing one word, using *time* instead of *life*. For time is one's life. A physician could rightly say in caring for a patient, "I have given this sick person ten hours of my time, that is, ten hours of my life — I have given him my all and could give him no more." Truly then, he has died to self for Christ during these ten hours so that his patient may live. The words of Jesus apply to him, "Greater love than this no man has."

The ancient Greeks depict *time* as a wheel, like a ferris wheel or the

hands on a clock, going no place. However, for the Christian, time is like a wheel on a cart going round, but also going onward and forward to a destination.

To enrich one's time, man has produced more words and sounds than any other product in the universe. With newspapers, tapes, records, radio announcements, stories, movies, television, shows and advertising, he has proven his anxiety to communicate. Obviously, much has been and is being transmitted. The question is, how much is being received? For effectiveness in the milieu of sound, there must be a recipient for the word in every inter-personal relationship.

The physician in sharing of his life should make sure that his words are effective and not "given to the wind." His "bedside manner" relates words of spirituality, comfort, peace and hope. As a man of God, his words will frequently be a request for an increase of faith, strength, courage and enlightenment, thus striving to be a modern Luke.

The Catholic physician lovingly dedicates his time and practice in the cause for Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary. In his concern to better know God, he realizes that this relationship does not come about by accident, but through deep concern and is achieved by God's help.

Expending one's life in Christ, with words of praise, with faith in His love, knowing that his patient, redeemed by Christ, is sacred and possesses eternal life, the Catholic physician's dedication fulfills itself for he has purpose; he is in touch with divinity.

Rev. Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti

Guest Editor . . .



This issue of the *Linacre Quarterly* has been compiled with the assistance of John R. Cavanagh, M.D., LQ Associate Editor. Dr. Cavanagh, who is president-elect of the NFCPG, is a psychiatrist in private practice in Washington D.C. He is a former editor of the *Bulletin* of the National Guild of Catholic Psychiatrists, and the author of numerous books and articles.