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Message From the Spiritual Advisor

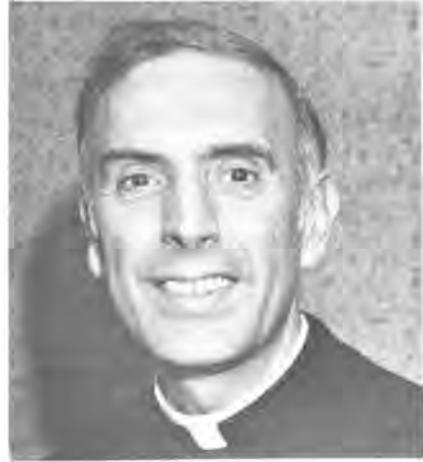
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



While meditating on the life of Jesus, one could easily visualize His tender hands as a small child, His muscular hands as a carpenter, His physician hands when healing, and His pierced hands after having been nailed to the cross.

St. John tells us that Thomas was not with the Twelve when Jesus appeared to them, and when the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord," he replied, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, with the doors closed, Jesus came, stood in their midst and said to Thomas, "Bring here thy finger and see my hands, and bring here thy hand and put it into my side and be not unbelieving, but believing."

The pierced hands of Jesus were shown to His Father after His Resurrection from the grave and were kept as a memorial of His crucifixion.

Every hand tells a story, especially the one that is pierced. There are those who claim to read the future from the palms of one's hands. There are others who, in shaking a calloused hand, can rightly say that the person has known the experience of hard labor.

An artist's hands bring to life, through the aid of a rainbow of colors, the very beauty of his soul. The physician who touches life itself made to God's very image and likeness, uses his hands for restoring to the fullness of life the dormant body weakened through sickness and disease.

In the course of a busy day, the physician puts his two willing hands to many uses — performing surgery, handling delicate instruments, removing the tumor, stitching the patient and comforting his

family. At a delivery, with his muscular hands he handles the new life at birth, slaps the baby's behind, congratulates the child's father, prays in thanksgiving, and then continues the mission of Jesus in healing the sick through his science, art and the imposition of hands.

A positive mark of a Catholic physician is that he never uses his hands in an act of violence. He believes in the sacredness of his very person and always extends his hands praising God, preserving life and helping his neighbor in pain. In his union with Jesus at the Jordan as well as at Calvary, he finds special strength in knowing that his hands, too, are nailed to the cross of Christ, that they are not free to be used for secular gain, but only to do the Will of the Father.

Unlike St. Francis of Assisi or Padre Pio, the stigmata of the Catholic physician is invisible. He is the unsung hero, the unnoticed saint, the scapegoat in society. Yet as many suffer the ultimate of pain, they too will share in the ultimate of glory with Him in whom the Father is well pleased. The physician of faith finds that his mission is Christ-like, his work is holy, his hands are sacred, and his reward like Jesus' after His crucifixion, is Resurrection.

— Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti
