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## Message From the Spiritual Advisor

Dino Lorenzetti

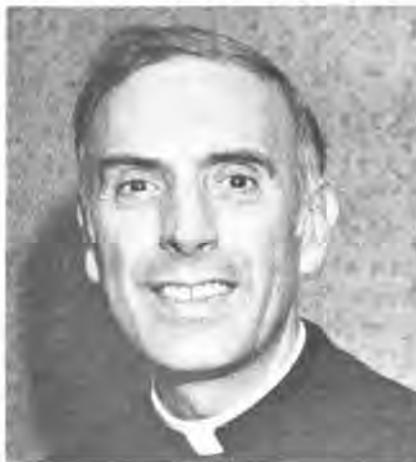
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## Message from the Spiritual Advisor



The physician in modern society is accused, and often rightly so, of "being God." With "*dis-grace*," he takes human life at will, and then to show his "great omnipotence," attempts to create life.

The Catholic physician is, on the other hand, God-like. Being priest, prophet and king, for so he was consecrated at Baptism, he sees his work realized through "*divine grace*" as he continues performing daily the miracles of Jesus. With unity in the Divine Physician, he restores the broken bodies and minds of his patients, not for his personal gain, but for the glory and honor of the Father.

When Jesus stood before Pilate, He revealed that He is a King, and then clarified His office in saying that His Kingship is not of this world, but "to testify to the truth" and went on to say that "anyone committed to the truth hears My voice." The physician defending His Truth will be rewarded with the royal crown of Christ the King which, unlike the perishable crown for the victorious athlete, is eternity.

Kings today are not fashionable. However, to work for the possession of a valuable gift and dedicate your life towards achieving it is "your king." The emphasis of the non-believer whose god is the "*dolce vita*," is directed towards attaining pleasure, wealth, power or honor on his very self. The person of faith, however, keeps striving for perfection, and must make the living God his highest goal, as he believes in the Christian paradox that "it is in giving that we receive, and in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is within you." The essential truth of Christianity is not that "God came down on earth," but that the only real image of God is contained in man himself. In Matt. 25,

our Lord said that “insofar as you did this to one of the least of My brothers, you did it to *Me*.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said to “put love into action and not merely give money. Go to a home, to your next door neighbor and smile at an old person there. Visit a prison and listen to a drug addict . . . .”

The physician has no problems encountering these individuals, as they are constantly with him. When he responds generously with love and translates the mandate of the Gospel into action by defending the deprived, healing the sick and comforting the dying, he quickly becomes the recipient of divine grace.

What an extraordinary privilege to represent Christ in all of these experiences! Unlike earthly kings who must rely on their limited resources for power and strength, your heavenly King has the totality of power and He shares it generously with you in His word and the Eucharist. You have the opportunity to “be Him,” the Body of Christ, bringing His strength to the indifferent world, responding to His Spirit of love and consuming yourself in His mission. Then you will find that your vocation is uplifted. With your patients, you have more than a physician-patient relationship. You have the actuality of Christ working in you, healing through your (His) royal hands and your being His personal emissary, assisting His loved ones — our very brothers — to the Kingdom.

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti

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