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Message From the Spiritual Advisor

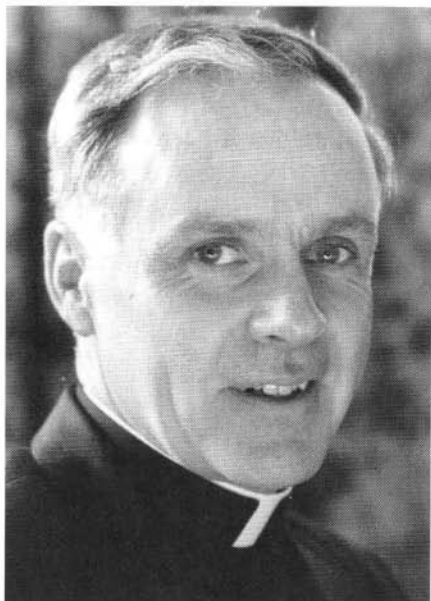
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



With Eyes Fixed on the Father . . .

A recent convert to Catholicism, who was once a skeptic of organized religion of every stripe, is Malcolm Muggeridge. Early in his religious awakening, this journalist-turned-apologist noted:

I've spent a number of years in India and Africa where I found much righteous endeavor undertaken by Christians of all denominations; but I never, as it happens, come across a hospital or orphanage run by the Fabian Society or a Humanist leper colony.

"Catholic Charities" is a virtual tautology in the consciousness of people the world over who have witnessed the Church in service, from the primitive mission outpost in Third World Africa and Latin America to the expanding metropolises of North America. Before the Catholic church building appears, there invariably arise the health clinic and school.

So much of Catholicism's essence is involved in the seeming paradox of a community whose preoccupation with the transcendent is inextricably entwined with a servant's instinct to find food, medicine, living and learning space for believer and nonbeliever alike.

This tradition, this seeming paradox, dates and emanates from Jesus' own words and actions. It has survived hostile tyrants and dominating ideologies. It is a tradition of Christian love in which we can take appropriate pride.

It is also a tradition in considerable jeopardy if our institutions' values, principles and norms should become indistinguishable from those of

secular institutions which view the human person as earthbound, only.

Enormous sacrifices of spirit have been invested in every building of charity and learning, crested with the cross of Christ. Even greater sacrifices lie ahead if, in spite of the sign of that cross, our health and educational institutions are not to succumb to non-theistic agendas often enticingly wrapped in government greenback or political platforms.

Christ healed and taught, always with eyes fixed firmly on the Father and His kingdom not of this world. For a follower of Christ not to look upon patient or student with similar fixation, strips the cross of its symbolism and invites a very hostile takeover by the Fabians and Humanists of the 21st century.

— Rev. Msgr. Edwin F. O'Brien
