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Message From the Spiritual Advisor

Edwin F. O'Brien

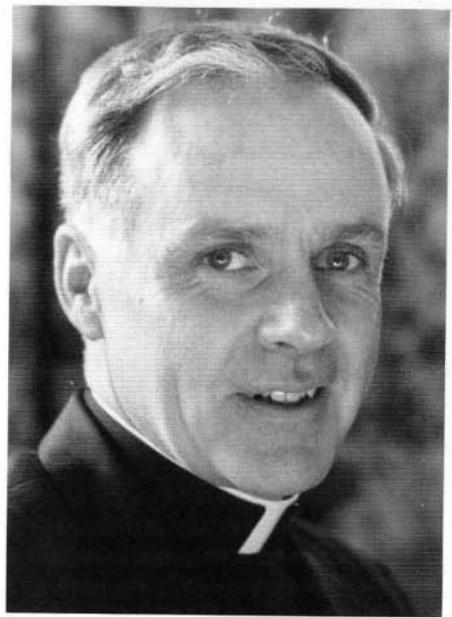
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



“Unless the Lord build . . .”

“New Frontiers” is a description frequently used of modern medicine. Fresh developments reported in the daily press in fields such as genetics, preborn medicine, pharmacology, medical law and reproductive techniques offer the amateur but interested observer only a hint of what the medical professional faces in “keeping up” with the ever newer frontiers.

Much is said, and increasingly, of the need for an ethical component to keep pace with the new frontiers of technology. That is a call long overdue. What needs equal billing is an emphasis on the importance of virtue, personal integrity, and a subjective striving for spiritual excellence if the ethical quest is to be successful in directing the most sophisticated technological advances toward the true advancement of the human condition.

And so the uniqueness of a professional medical society that is Catholic: reminding one and all of the unparalleled resources of the Church in promoting the true good of each human person. Born of long community experience, the Church’s resources go beyond the academic, philosophical and theological truths which should enrich any attempt at ethical decision making. Hearts stirred by compassion, charity selflessly and spontaneously lavished, and insights far transcending the calculations of human reason: these are the gifts of grace, indications that God’s Spirit is enriching His creation. And He does so through individuals not only knowledgeable in their scientific, profession, but also faithful to the

community we call Church, its word and sacraments.

“Unless the Lord build the house, in vain do the builders labor” (Ps. 127). If the Lord’s hand is to be responsible for the humanity fashioned by medicine’s new frontiers, it will be primarily through men and women learned in the medical sciences who value the things of God and strive for holiness.

— Rev. Msgr. Edwin F. O’Brien

PHYSICIAN NEEDED

The Anawim Healing Center, Penn Yan, NY, desperately needs a family physician to share in this medical apostolate to the poor.

We are about to begin a comprehensive pre-natal clinic in addition to the wide range of services we already offer to the poor in this upstate New York community. A caring, Christian alternative to abortion must be made available to the people of our area. We see this as a God-given opportunity to teach our young people the truth about human sexuality, chastity, and the covenant of marriage.

Necessary “benefits” to those interested in such a life of service include ongoing orthodox Catholic teaching and spiritual formation. If you have been seeking a way to integrate an interior life of prayer and medical missionary work without leaving the United States, this may be your answer. If God has given you a desire to serve the poor or to use your medical skills to help restore morality to our world, call collect anytime, 315-536-3717.

— Kenneth J. Berkes, M.D.