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Message From the Spiritual Advisor

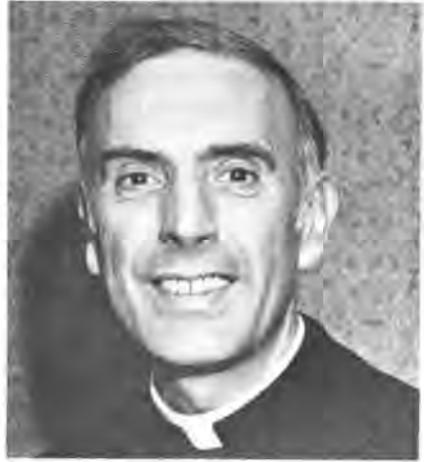
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



Healing is at the heart of a physician's ministry. At times its mystery perplexes even the most sophisticated scholar, for its source is often unknown. Every experienced examiner can cite numerous cases where a patient has complained of pain, discomfort or even severe illness and then without the physician ever knowing why, the patient is cured and goes home "healed." The question goes unanswered as to whether the ailment was caused by physical, spiritual or psychosomatic sickness, and while no one seems to be given credit for the phenomenon, still the reality exists.

In a pragmatic society, the Catholic physician is at a disadvantage in practicing his profession for his morality restricts his performing surgery on healthy organisms and keeps him from destroying life. Yet, on the same premise he has an outstanding advantage over his colleagues who are non-believers, because he recognizes that God is the source of all life and that he, the physician, is facilitating His Divine Plan.

The Catholic doctor united with Jesus Christ through Baptism and the Eucharist, has the power of Christ within him, like the woman with the hemorrhage in the Gospel story (Lk 8:43-44) who only needed to touch Jesus and His power flowed into her, thus restoring her to new life.

It is well known that patients often wait long, anxious hours to see and hear what the physician has to say about their health. They are eager to listen to every word he utters, for their future will pretty much depend on "what the doctor has to say." It is here that with the personal *touch* of the prayerful physician, with child-like faith and confidence, the sick person will be uplifted as he is about to begin "a new life." It is necessary that the doctor be a man of faith, believing

that as mediator of the healing power of Jesus Christ he can help his fellowman in pain through his special sacrament of love. The atheist can only rely on his technical skills for healing, whereas the Catholic physician relies on his art and his science and, united with the Lord, actuates His work — that of the Divine Physician.

Speaking in faith over “he who is sick,” a positive action takes place. Through God’s amazing grace, tense anxieties locked up in the inner recesses of the troubled patient’s very being are often freed, and the words of love by the physician bring about healing and peace.

The label “Catholic” branded on a doctor in a secular society may seem to put him at a handicap, yet as this physician practices his medical skills spiritually enriched with God’s love, his patients become doubly blessed. They are being serviced by a man who not only has expertise in medicine, but who is also known to be holy, continuing the mission of healing as Jesus did — God working with him, in him and through him.

Doctors, do not ever underestimate your power. You are special people, chosen by God to be His “messengers.” For being one with Him, the impossible becomes possible.

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti