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## Message from the Spiritual Advisor

Dino Lornzetti

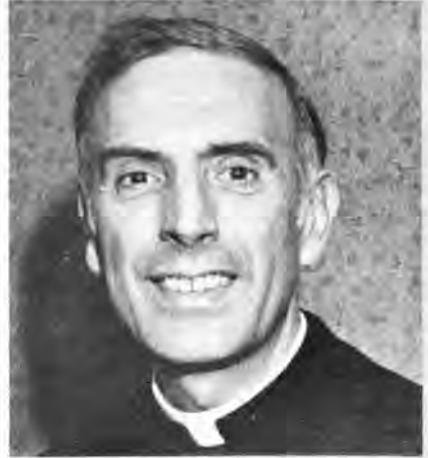
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## Message from the Spiritual Advisor



The physician in every community is looked up to as a prestigious person, esteemed and respected. He is seen as an intelligent scientist prepared to accept the challenges of the modern advances in medicine and as a noble leader in the art of healing.

Above all, the Christian physician holds a "sacrosanct" office and thus uplifts the sick (just as the priest does the sinner) to the fullness of health. He is blessed indeed with gifted powers to bridge the "forces of nature" with the ailing patient. Seen as a catalyst, he exercises all that is in his very being, relying on the strength of God's providence and His Spirit, to assist the sick in being restored to health.

The physician, as the priest, desires to orchestrate his words, love, prayers and skills so that the sick person will be lifted up to the rhythmic harmony of oneness with the Divine. Disorders, then, are relieved, painful groans are raised to cheerful songs and brilliant smiles, and the infirm are resurrected to full humanness.

At the liturgy of the Eucharist, the priest prays, "Lord Jesus Christ, with *faith* in Your love and mercy I eat Your body and drink Your blood. Let it not bring me condemnation, but *health* in mind and body." The physician, as a faithful "priest," in glorifying God unites his very self with Jesus. He experiences a consecration, as through his intercession the miracle of God's grace restores the sick to health in mind and body.

With the fallen nature of man, the physician and priest are continuously called upon to mediate between God and man so that in both body and spirit man will be "raised up" to his highest potential and thus enjoy good health with solace and peace.

In the Lord's name, the priest extends his hands upon the sinner; the surgeon extends his upon the sick so that the fallen are renewed

and the weak are strengthened. How cautious they are, and rightfully so, that their actions do not lead them to condemnation. Instead it is their noblest desire that their prayers and works will strengthen the persons they meet, giving them "newer" life, and thus benefitting them as they journey toward salvation.

In the mystery of loving one's fellowman, in touching the very sacredness of his person redeemed through the sufferings and death of Christ, both physician and priest become an integral part of the promise guaranteeing eternal life.

Yours is indeed a sacred vocation. It is more than practicing medicine — for a person is more than flesh, just as the Eucharist is more than bread. United with Jesus, they are HOLY; they have Eternity. The sick invite you to pray (to call upon God to help them), to consecrate (to change their illness to health) and resurrect them (to prepare them for a new life). Surely then, you are more than a physician; you are PRIESTLY as well.

— Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti

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### A Prayer for Every Healer

Where'er they heal the maimed and blind,  
Let love of Christ attend,  
Proclaim the Good Physician's mind,  
And prove the Savior Friend.

For Christ the Lord can now employ  
As agents of His will,  
Restoring health and strength and joy,  
The doctor's love and skill.

— *Author Unknown*