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## Message From the Spiritual Advisor

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## Message from the Spiritual Advisor



We are living in a society that daily creates heroes and scapegoats. We wait for the latest newscast to see who are the winners and losers of the day — be it political success or failure, the outcome of the races, the advances or declines on the market or the final scores of the games played within the past 24 hours. As human beings interested in the adventures and challenges of our fellowmen, we vicariously sit back and observe as “armchair critics,” expressing our praise or disapproval of what we see or hear.

The world unfortunately looks on the physician in pretty much the same way. Either he is a hero — a great guy, a genius — or a scapegoat — a fall-guy, a loser — and if he really speaks up for the truth, often the fool. It becomes paradoxical that many times he sees himself as clearly being both a hero and scapegoat just as Jesus was during the week of His crucifixion. The crowds hailed Him as King on Palm Sunday and a criminal on Good Friday. As Isaiah tells it, “He was like a sheep taken to be slaughtered.”

Heroes are gods whose strength seems overpowering and their faults go unnoticed, whereas scapegoats are vulnerable since they can’t fight back. Usually they are faulted with just enough truth to make the accusation sound credible and thus they become victims for attack.

Physicians, like the Divine Healer, deal with sickness. In the great mystery of sin, sickness is frequently equated as the visible sign of disorder in the person. Healing is the taking away of the sin, the sickness, the disorder causing pain, and is the restoration to health. In seeing Jesus at a distance, St. John exclaims there is the “Lamb of God (the scapegoat) Who takes away the sins of the world.” Yes, He is our hero;

He has mercy on us. Yet the price of His life is what brought mankind salvation.

Today many a Catholic physician can identify with Jesus as the price of his life is what is bringing about healing. He has mercy on the sick; he can relate to his brother in pain as he sees a parallel relationship in the life of Christ. As a person of faith, he is blessed as he believes. Jeremiah, of ancient times, said, "Cursed is the man who trusts in man . . . blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord." How do you see yourself? If one in Christ, you could be a scapegoat-fool to the world, but more important, you are the hero-saint in His Kingdom.

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti

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