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Message from the Spiritual Advisor

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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



The intrinsic value that both priests and physicians hope to achieve is to imitate Christ Who went about bringing new life to others.

In the third Eucharistic prayer at Holy Mass, the universal Church prays, “*All life, all holiness comes from You through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit.*”

In the first book of Scripture, the author of Genesis tells us that God initiated life into the human race by breathing into clay, thus creating the first man, Adam. This life continues to this very day, and will do so until the end of time.

Man is continually “reborn,” from conception to birth — from death to life. This new life is given him with the reception of all the sacraments. New life is continually given him at each stage of his living through nourishment and healing, both when he is debilitated and when he is in ill health.

The physician and priest both claim to possess the two sacred vocations that are dedicated exclusively toward bringing new life to their brothers and sisters. As the man of medicine gives his all in order to restore the sick to the fullness of life, he unites himself with Jesus Who declared Himself as “the Resurrection and the Life.”

Life is itself a paradox. Whether we are conscious of it or not, our very life becomes the life of those whom we encounter and simultaneously, their life becomes ours as well. So when the physician gives of his time, his life to one who is sick, that sick person shares in the very life of the physician as he becomes bonded with his patient.

Bonding, or union with another, brings both joys and fears. This is realistically experienced in marriage when “two are united in one

flesh." It is in this mystery of intimacy that through the couple in love, a new life bursts forth — a child is born

On that first Pentecost Sunday, the fear of the Apostles in that upper room vanished as the Spirit of Love filled their very beings. Thus they were strengthened, enlightened, filled with new life. They fearlessly proceeded to witness the Good News to all, especially among the non-believers, with extraordinary courage and faith. For when love is truly known in Christ, then fear is dispelled, and a new life, a new hope, a new day appears.

So, too, is the confirmed physician in whom the Spirit of God dwells. His talents and gifts are enriched with blessings divine that have a special effect as they are dispensed generously in his ministry of healing. Being faith-filled, he brings new life to the unborn, the depressed, the abandoned, the sick and the dying. A new life is known by the starving individual who is fed a nourishing meal. He becomes renewed, reborn in a manner similar to the sick person who is restored to health. There is a rebirth of life when the physician extends his gifts of the Spirit that lies within him.

The Catholic physician should see himself as Jesus' personal physician, speaking to Him daily in prayer, dining at His Eucharistic table, knowing Him better than most others, thus being His closest friend. When being bonded to Jesus, the physician possesses tremendous powers; yet like Jesus, he has to see his failures, sufferings and sacrifices as the will of the Father, to recognize in faith that if "beaten down" for a short time, he is given new life for the longest time, as he like Jesus will be raised up on the last day.

Yes, the paradox is real. When you give "new life" to those patients of yours, you are "losing your life" to them. You are dying so that they may live. Your life, like Jesus' life, is sacrificial. Your life, like His, will be glorified. At your death, you will be (re)born. What a life it will be — a life with Love for eternity.

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti