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Message from the Diocese of Richmond

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Message From The Diocese of Richmond

Since the May issue of the Linacre Quarterly is being sponsored by the Northern Virginia and Washington Guilds of Catholic Physicians, I welcome this opportunity of expressing my admiration of and gratitude to our Catholic physicians who, serving our people by the alleviation of suffering and the enhancement and prolongation of life, base their medical practice upon authentic Christian moral principles.

Physicians more than men of almost any other profession are intimately aware of the many profound and worrisome problems and ailments which plague body and soul. Catholic physicians have knowledge of Christian moral principles and an understanding of their application in various specific situations.

These are days of confusion: of unrest and moral decadence. There are those individuals and associations who are favoring and fostering anti-life programs such as the killing of the unborn by abortion, and destruction of the weak and aged by euthanasia and the sterilization of the impoverished. We hear of a "new morality" which is no other than the old immorality.

In the midst of the pagan atmosphere which pervades our society and to which everyone, married couples and our youth, all are more or less exposed, many of those who suffer physical or mental illness, sickness affecting body and soul, turn to their physicians for comfort, relief and advice. They rely on the doctor's professional competence and because of their faith in his Faith they are confident of receiving wholesome advice and correct treatment.

Therefore, the Catholic physician, more than most men, has daily opportunities of practicing the Apostolate of the Laity as recommended by the Vatican Council: "Since in this age of ours, new problems are arising and extremely serious errors are gaining currency which tend to undermine the foundations of religion, the moral order and human society itself, we earnestly exhort each according to his natural gifts to be more diligent in doing his part according to the mind of the Church, to explain and defend Christian principles and to apply them rightly to the problems of our era."

Our Catholic Physicians meet this challenge of the Lay Apostolate by living practical Catholic lives and ministering to their fellow-men according to their Catholic consciences and their professional competence.

May the Divine Physician bless all the members of your Guilds.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

John J. Russell
Bishop of Richmond

