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## Episcopal Advisor's Page

George R. Evans

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It has been my personal observation that a large number of Catholic doctors with whom I have had recent contact are all in agreement that their mutual aid and support is needed more than ever in these times of drastic change. These startling changes in the Field of Medicine provoke new moral questions which do not afford ready answers. The close cooperation between medical guilds and theologians is desperately needed today. Their work cannot be considered competitive but rather supplementary.

With these considerations in mind it seemed to me that a paragraph in the recent Apostolic Letter of Pope Paul VI to Cardinal Maurice Roy on the Eightieth Anniversary of "Rerum Novarum" is very applicable to doctors.

"Today men yearn to free themselves from need and dependence. But this liberation starts with the interior freedom that men must find again with regard to their goods and their powers, they will never reach it except through a genuine readiness to serve. Otherwise, as one can see only too clearly, the most revolutionary ideologies lead only to a change of master; once installed in power in their turn, these new masters surround themselves with privileges, limit freedoms and allow other forms of injustice to become established."

The clarion call of the Holy Father is for all Christians to join in active service of the neighbor. There is no doubt that the gospel message cannot be limited to the pulpit. As the Holy Father further says, "It is to all Christians that we address a fresh and insistent call to action." In the search for answers to moral problems it is a seeking for the most Christian ways to bring effective Christian assistance to the infirm of the land.

George R. Evans  
Auxiliary Bishop  
Archdiocese of Denver