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## Message from the Spiritual Advisor ...

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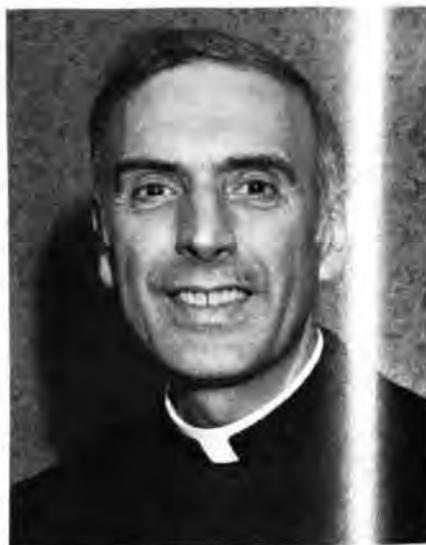
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## Message From the Spiritual Advisor



Why a *Catholic* physician? If a person is a certified physician, recognized in his field, qualified in all aspects of his profession, certainly nothing "extra" should be expected of him. What difference does it make if his beliefs and philosophy of life are strict or permissive, liberal or conservative, moral or immoral? For many perhaps it does not make too much difference, and yet for others it could make "all the difference in the world".

The *Catholic* physician, by his very title is someone more than a doctor who is a specialist in curing the sick, a respectable gentleman in the community, and a learned spokesman. Through his baptism, he is given a special commission, invested in his person which is inseparable from his profession. He is to bring the Light of Christ to his fellowman.

Primitive man feared two great evils; sickness and darkness — sickness as the unknown enemy that destroyed him from within, and darkness which helped his enemy to destroy him from without. With both he was helpless.

Ancient man somehow associated life with light. With the warmth of the sun, plants "took" life, and in the brightness of the day he could see his enemy and thus protect his life from the aggressor.

The medical doctor was always recognized as a man of vision gifted with knowledge, artistic ability, and natural talents exceeding the men of his day. His profession trained him to discern the darkness of disease and with his skill, assist his fellowman to greater health and life.

Christ, the Divine Physician and "Light of the World" during His public life restored sight to the blind, health to the sick, and knowledge to the ignorant. In His love for mankind, He inspired those who wished to follow Him, in the Way, the Truth and the Life. A *Way* the *Truth* can be brought to *Life* is for each "enlightened" Catholic physician to live in a Christlike manner, serving God the Father, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in assisting His people walking in the darkness of sickness and sin.

The Catholic physician striving for perfection in his vocation listens to the voice of the Divine Healer. In so doing, he becomes conscious, through the light of Christ, of the needs of his brothers crying not only from physical pain but also from economic, social, and psychological sufferings. He becomes sensitized to the needs of each individual with a soul that will live for eternity. Each patient being considered a person calling with a need and not a "case number". For some, the Catholic physician responds with words of comfort; others may need his guidance through a critical stage, and still others his willingness to complete necessary medical and governmental forms.

Every client needs the doctor's time, patience and love. It is here where the Catholic physician excels over his colleagues through his personal love and concern for everyone. When this is accomplished, then the words of Christ will re-echo "Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of My brethren, you did it for Me".

Catholic physicians have shown a tremendously generous dedication to God and man in helping the sick, the poor and the aged. In addition, through their magnanimous contribution of time, they have taught thousands of young adults preparing for marriage. Their untiring efforts in assisting the married in childspacing, students in marriage courses and nurses in medical training have brought them and all of us manifold blessings.

The people of God have been healthier and holier through the influence of the Catholic physician and the nobility of his profession has been enhanced by his generosity. May God reward him for his response to His people, and grant him life eternal for his dedicated service.

Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti

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