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Message from the Spiritual Advisor

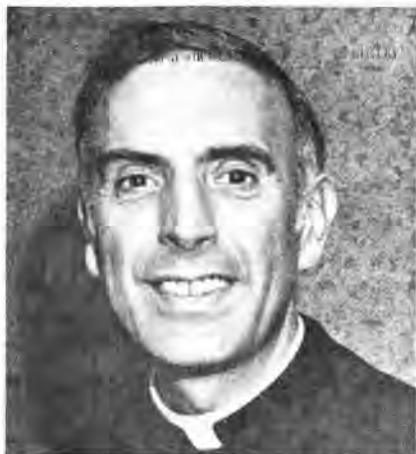
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



Every physician of faith believing in Jesus, like the apostles, has been called personally by the Lord to "follow Him." The mission is more than continuing a work which Jesus began, but rather is Jesus continuing His own work in and through you, in an ever-deepening communion. It is only as physicians united to Christ and in Him that you, like the apostles, can go to heal the sick and make disciples of all nations.

The call that each has received from the Lord is certainly unexpected, unmerited and in many ways unique; however, it has compelled from you a free response: "Yes, Lord, I will serve." The vocation, the call, had nothing to do with your culture, finances, temperament or even experience. The invitation to serve does not presuppose sanctity and certainly offers no guarantee that those accepting will not fall at a later date. However, this response does allow a covenant to be established, and thus a profound bond of unity exists between each individual and Jesus Christ.

When St. Peter "left all" to follow Jesus, his initial investment of a boat and a few nets appeared, at first, to be incidental, yet his response included "all" as he died crucified, professing his faith in Him. While admitting his denial and failures on his journey with the Lord, Peter did repent, taking up his cross to follow in the Master's footsteps.

Jesus uses the simile of a yoke, or a double harness, to explain His intimate companionship as He journeys on our road. When those who are yoked with Him are rhythmically going in the same direction, the "yoke is easy and the burden light." However, should one be obstinate and not go Christ's way, then he experiences a choking sensation, a struggle, pain and lack of progress. In our journey through life, follow-

ing Jesus, having been yoked with Him at Baptism, His spirit strengthens, comforts and encourages our vocation. Thus our mission is successful, as it is in tune with His way, truth and life.

The apostle Peter, in speaking to the beggar, said, “. . . in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth arise and walk” (Acts 3:7). As with Peter, the miracle of healing is to be accomplished in Christ, through us. Thus God is praised, His Name glorified. Jesus assures us that the reward for faithful ministry is that “Whoever declares publicly that he belongs to me, I will do the same for him before my Father in heaven” (Matt. 10:32).

Jesus was sent by the Father to declare His truths. When His mission was completed and He returned to the Father, He sent His Spirit to inspire, animate and guide His Church and you, as His special members, to carry out the work that only you can accomplish. Yours is a special function in the Body of Christ and you, like St. Paul, “. . . fill up what is lacking in the suffering of Christ for the sake of His Body, the Church” (Col. 1:24).

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti

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