

February 1987

Message from the Spiritual Advisor: What Happiness Is!

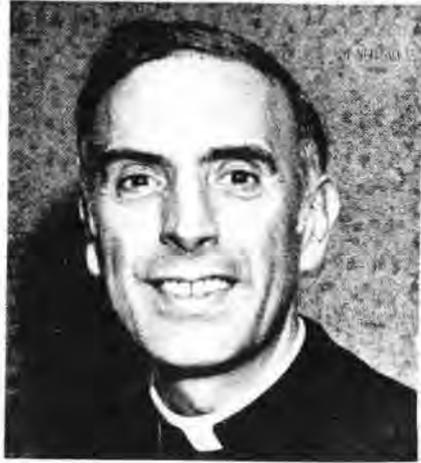
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Recommended Citation

Lorenzetti, Dino J. (1987) "Message from the Spiritual Advisor: What Happiness Is!," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 54 : No. 1 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol54/iss1/1>

Message from the Spritual Advisor



What Happiness Is!

The yellow round face with a black-lined crescent mouth and oval filled-in eyes seems to have received the unofficial symbol of what "Happiness is". This non-copyrighted logo is frequently seen with a word or phrase following the quotation to describe what the promoter believes is the highest degree of joy. It may vary from an inexpensive popular beverage to a relaxing vacation on an exotic island. However, to the patient, happiness is going home from the hospital, having a complete recovery, being relieved of pain, being given a new life.

A truly happy (blessed) person is one who is in pursuit of eternal life. His motivation and drive are not toward the perishable goods of this life which will vanish, but a willingness to endure even hardships for the kingdom of God which will last forever.

When Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee, He proclaimed eight beatitudes. After His resurrection, He added a ninth when appearing to His apostles in the Cenacle. He approached the unbelieving Thomas and said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed (happy) are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (Jn. 20:29).

With faith, a physician becomes endowed with a gift of seeing the mysterious regions of the divine. He is able to offer his patients a hope which is intertwined with the promise of the Savior. As a person of prayer, the physician's love and concern uplift his medical profession to the highest of vocations as he unites himself with the Divine Healer. His oneness with Christ enables him to share in the restoration of his patient's health.

This was vividly manifested in the life of the apostles, Peter and John, who approached a beggar who was asking for alms at the temple. The words of Peter are still remembered as proof of a man having faith in the power of Jesus working within him. He spoke with confidence as he stated, "Silver and gold I have none, but what I have, that I give thee. In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, arise and walk." (Acts 3:6) The crippled man was instantly healed.

What extraordinary joy the patient experiences when encountering the physician who is blessed.

"Sometimes along life's journey, we meet a special person who just seems to light up our life with joy. A person who helps us to really see the beauty of the world, the good in others, and the good in ourselves. We often find ourselves amazed at how lucky we were to find such a person — but it wasn't luck — it was a blessing from God." (Author unknown.)

St. Peter puts it in these words: "At present you trust Him without being able to see Him and even now He brings you a joy that words cannot express, which has in it a hint of the glories of heaven." (1 Peter 1 8:9)

Dear Doctor — your faith in the invisible God makes you a blessed person indeed, as you see Him in those whom you serve. Yes, happiness is . . . "blind" faith in Jesus Christ.

-Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti

Dr. Clement Austria, treasurer of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, died suddenly at his home in Xenia, Ohio on Nov. 22, 1986, one day before his 63rd birthday. Born in the Philippines, Doctor Austria is survived by his wife, Jean, and nine children.

A member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, the AMA, and the Ohio Medical Association, Doctor Austria had served as an NCFPG Region IV director. He received many honors, including the City of Xenia's Award of Merit for Community Service. The Austria family was named 1984 Knights of Columbus Family of the Year and in 1985 was honored by Nancy Reagan at the White House as one of the nine great American families in the United States. Through the Foster Parents' Plan, the Austrias had supported eight children over the past 25 years.

The National Federation extends its deep sympathy to the family of Doctor Austria.