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Editorial

Catholic Physicians' Guilds

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Editorial

IT IS CUSTOMARY for most good Catholics to begin each day with the recitation of the Morning Offering. By means of this prayer they offer to God all their thoughts, words, and actions of the day. It is a beautiful custom and it is a most effective way of elevating our thoughts and actions to the level of prayer and to the plane of a higher motivation. Most of us Catholics must be content to offer to God each day very commonplace actions and very ordinary thoughts and it is consoling to be able to dignify them as an offering to God.

The Catholic doctor has more to offer to God each day. It is his privilege to perform acts which have already received a special significance because Christ Himself performed them during His lifetime. Our Lord loved the sick to such an extent as to identify them with Himself, "Because you have visited the sick, you have visited Me." He loved them so much that He touched them and cured them. The Catholic doctor then is privileged to follow in the footsteps of Christ and to minister to the sick in the same manner.

It would certainly be regrettable if the Christian physician would permit his professional work to descend to the level of mere market place activities. It would be tragic if the sick would have to think of their physicians as they do of the banker, the grocer, and the contractor. Thank God, this seldom happens.

To all Catholics the Church has recommended the Corporal Works of Mercy. But only to the physician and the nurse has been offered the opportunity of complete dedication to one of the Corporal Works of Mercy, "to visit the sick." Our Catholic physicians may well ponder each morning, as they recite the Morning Offering, the special privilege of offering to God throughout the day so many acts which have special value and significance because they are so Christlike and because they are performed for those whom Christ loved so much.