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President's Page

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The greatest commandment given to us is to love God with one’s whole heart and one’s neighbor as oneself. We cannot truly say we love God unless we love our neighbor. This love must be more than mere words. It must be put into actions by using all the skills and opportunities given to us to help our neighbor. We must first be aware of our neighbor’s needs. Following this awareness it should then be our duty to see that our neighbor gets his just share of this world’s products. In our case, God has given us skills as physicians. As physicians dedicated to the commandment of love it behooves us to see that God’s people, not only in our immediate area, but throughout the world get their share of adequate medical care. For Christ said, “As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me”. It has been estimated that 20% of the world’s population own 80% of the world’s wealth. The same poor distribution of medical care also exists. For example, in the United States there is one physician for every 700 people; in Brazil there is one physician for every 3300 people; in India one for every 5700; in Nigeria one for every 57,000; in Indonesia, one for every 70,000 and in Ethiopia, one for every 200,000 people. In the United States there is one hospital bed for every 100 persons, Mexico, one bed for every 800 persons, India one bed for every 3000 persons, and in Burma one bed for every 30,000 persons. There have been many in the past and present, as individuals or as Guilds who have and are participating in medical mission work in foreign lands. It is my hope that their devotion will sub off on many of us who have not participated as yet. It is my hope that many more of us will respond to the commandment of love for one’s neighbor and become involved in the correction of the inequity that exists in the distribution of medical care in our world. It is my hope that many of us in planning future vacations will include a visit or a tour of duty at one of the many indigent medical care areas on this small sphere that
we call our world. This is one way we can implement the urgings of Vatican II: its Document on the Lay Apostolate.

As you all know, the first International Congress of Catholic Physicians will be held in the United States will take place in Washington, D.C., on October 1-14, 1970. In order for this event to be successful we will need the help of each member of the National Federation. Included in this help should be your prayers for a successful meeting, your financial assistance by making a donation to the fund, and very important, your attendance at this Congress. This will be a great opportunity to hear firsthand the problems of medical care in other parts of the world. It will also be a chance to compare notes and exchange ideas with physicians from all over the world on problems of government medicine, abortion on demand, malnutrition, hunger and many other medical and social problems. Mark your calendar and come to Washington on October 11-14. Let's make October 11-14 the largest gathering of Catholic physicians ever seen in the world — the largest gathering of physicians skilled in their healing art and dedicated to making our world a better place to live for all men.

Finally I would like to report that we, as a Federation, have presented our opposition to liberal abortion laws in a Federal Court in Milwaukee. We are prepared to do likewise in Pennsylvania which is one of the few states which has no abortion law, but rather a penal code which makes it a felony to perform "illegal abortions". The interpretation of the term "illegal" will be the issue in Pennsylvania, and we as a Federation are involved in this action. We must stand together for in numbers there is strength. We must stand together in all matters that threaten our medical moral code.

Gino G. Papola M.D.

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Message From The Spiritual Advisor . . .

FOCUS ON THE MASS

Life is our concern.
It was His!
"I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly."

How?
"He shall live forever, who eats my flesh and drinks my blood."

What a pledge — how great a gift!
"Quid retribuam?" What can I possibly return to the Lord for this, and for all His gifts to me?

A dilemma? An impossibility? Yes, had He not supplied for our weakness.

There was a Friday — a Good Friday!
The Father was offered the one and only, truly acceptable gift — THE sacrifice perfect and all pleasing of Calvary. Made so, not because his son D I E D, but because H I S S O N died — an efficacy Divine flowing from the Person — the Offerer at once became also the offering.

And God was pleased!
What part have I in this? How to make it mine — my gift?
There was a Thursday — a Holy Thursday!
"Do this," He said, "in memory of me."
It can be ours! An act Divine — the Sacrifice of Christ — The one perfect offering made again by H I S S O N.

And I can join with HIM?
Incredible! Divinization of my Humanity?

Quid retribuam? What to return?

Why, of course, the only gift worthy of God, — His Son.
To share, to join in the gift Christ is. And God is supremely pleased!

In Him, in whose priesthood we merely share.
Rev. Charles J. Scherer