August 1971

Episcopal Advisor's Page

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Recommended Citation
It has been my personal observation that a large number of Catholic doctors with whom I have had recent contact are all in agreement that their mutual aid and support is needed more than ever in these times of drastic change. These startling changes in the Field of Medicine provoke new moral questions which do not afford ready answers. The close cooperation between medical guilds and theologians is desperately needed today. Their work cannot be considered competitive but rather supplementary.

With these considerations in mind it seemed to me that a paragraph in the recent Apostolic Letter of Pope Paul VI to Cardinal Maurice Roy on the Eighth Anniversary of "Rerum Novarum" is very applicable to doctors.

"Today men yearn to free themselves from need and dependence. But his liberation starts with the interior freedom that men must find again with regard to their goods and their powers, they will never reach it except through a genuine readiness to serve. Otherwise, as one can see only too clearly, the most revolutionary ideologies lead only to a change of master; once installed in power in their turn, these new masters surround themselves with privileges, limit freedoms and allow other forms of injustice to become established."

The clarion call of the Holy Father is for all Christians to join in active service of the neighbor. There is no doubt that the gospel message cannot be limited to the pulpit. As the Holy Father further says, "It is to all Christians that we address a fresh and insistent call to action." In the search for answers to moral problems it is a seeking for the most Christian ways to bring effective Christian assistance to the infirm of the land.

Try as man may, he shall never silence the voice of God, the call to right and the need to conform his actions with nature. All are written, inscribed, imbedded in the very fibre of his innermost being.

The Natural law, even as the laws of physical nature, is not subject to be broken. The suicide leap doesn't break the law of gravity -- rather it demonstrates or illustrates it. The law proves itself, and with immediacy.

To flaunt the natural (moral) law is equally suicidal, though perhaps not seen so immediately. (Could it be that in the goodness of God we are given the respite to amend our ways before the death, because we barter here with a life eternal?)

Don't we hear the echo of an experienced Voice using reverse psychology? Saying:

"Desist or you will pay
Abort, abort, if you will . . .
Go ahead and take the pill . . . !
The Divine Law is with us still,
And nature will present the bill!"

"Not my will but Thine be done."

Father Charles Scherer

Playing God

If life be sent through God's intent,
and only in His vision spent,
Then how can we, who mortal be,
determine for Divinity?

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