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Message from the Spiritual Advisor: Man in God's Image

Dino Lorenzetti

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line with the other peoples of Europe. Let it be said that many advantages came our way in the field of international commerce and co-operation and subsidy. The price we pay is to leave our isolated position on the West Coast of Europe and join the Europeans in their customs and moral standards. One such problem was the provision of contraceptives, but I wrote about that last year. We have, however, balked at making abortion available. This has not altered the problem of up to 8000 Irish women going abroad each year for this purpose. Now the legislation to permit the sale of contraceptives by medical prescription only was, of course, flouted in public and in private, and even those who were in public service were not above saying what a ridiculous provision this was. However we face pressure groups who are demanding new legislation to allow the sale of contraceptives to all over 18 years of age and the lowering of the age of marriage. The consequences of this form of legislation have been evident in many other countries for many years.

However, lest I give the impression that we progress downhill only, not only in religion and morals, but also in medical care, let me hasten to relate that intensive efforts are being made to bring our medical care standards up to those of the richer countries, and will continue. We keep the good news until last. As you know, the Irish Medical Association had a break-away opposition group called the Irish Medical Union for over 20 years. It had always been hoped that these organizations would unite again, as they were both serving the medical profession. This was finally achieved in 1984, and they will now be known as the Irish Medical Organization. Long may it survive and be successful in its plan and in its example of unity to the whole country.

— Dr. Robert O'Donoghue
Cork

Message from the Spiritual Advisor

Man in God's Image

When God made man to His image and likeness, He gave man life. He actually gave man of Himself. The author of the book of Genesis says in Gen. 2:27 that “God created man in His image. In the image of God He created him. Male and female He created them.”

When man made the computer, he gave it information, not life, therefore the computer is not made in the image and likeness of man. The computer is able to supply accurate, speedy and detailed information, but it does not have life (the image of God) to translate that data into the language of love.

The loving physician sees his patients made in God's image and can apply his God-given talents to them so that through his human-ness, he can show them the way to a new life. With professional competence in medicine and as a person of faith, he relies on the Spirit of the Lord for His sevenfold gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear, so that his patients will be the beneficiaries of the assistance which is divine.

When Jesus manifested the image of God, He stripped Himself of His glory and became human, “a slave,” one like us except for sin, showing the way to portray the image of God, to be godlike, to witness His presence among His own people.

As the caring physician, Jesus, united with His Father, performed miracles which His humanness alone would have been unable to accomplish. The image of God was seen in His works such as healing the sick, dispelling demons and raising the dead to life.

A universal prescription, divinely proclaimed, tells how best to

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radiate God’s image, and that is to love Him with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves. To show us the way, Jesus prayed, “Give and at all times was most generous to all He encountered. His example taught us that it is in faith that we praise the unseen God as we perform acts of love to those whom we do see.

The most undesirable individuals in the respectable society of Jesus’ time were the beggars, lepers, prostitutes, thieves and aliens. It was specifically among these that He performed His apostolic mission, showing them love and concern, uplifting them, accepting them, and inspiring them to perfection, and sainthood.

It was at Cana that Jesus first showed the power of God manifested in Him by changing water into wine at a wedding feast. In His public life, He satisfied the multitude with but a few loaves and fishes. He restored the dead to life, and He divinized bread and wine at the Last Supper, so that all humanity could share in this gift of His very self.

Finally, He offered Himself on the cross to the Father Who received Him in glory and His radiant presence was witnessed until His ascension to the heavenly kingdom.

As Christ remains in us through the gift of Baptism, His presence and power continue through our ministry of love. Thus, in keeping the commandments, we become closer and more perfect in relation to the Father and mysteriously radiate the brightness of His image.

St. John tells us that “The Father is in me and I in the Father” (10:38). God’s image was made visible to the world through the birth of His Son, our Lord Jesus, and the world was given hope, love and salvation.

As the physician of faith witnesses Christ, the image and likeness of God radiates through him. When this occurs, the world sees love, hope, peace and salvation being renewed as the invisible Jesus is seen in the visible physician.

— Msgr. Dino Lorenzetti

President’s Page

When Much Is Given, Much Is Asked

“When much is given a man, much will be required of him. More will be asked of a man to whom more has been entrusted.”


Catholic physicians live their faith by the way they practice medicine. Abortion and infanticide are anathema. We favor dying in dignity, but not “death with dignity,” defined as “the painless inducement of death” in House Bill No. 342 in 1975 in the Hawaii State Legislature (which “died” in committee).

We should not be intimidated by the “imposing your morality” mentality when the opportunity presents itself. It is not our morality, but God’s moral code which we uphold to maintain the good name of medicine. It may be necessary to speak out with “meekness and great tact so as not to upset the other person, thus avoiding quarrels which cause nothing but bitterness and are more the result of attachment to one’s own opinions than of a love for the truth” (St. Francis de Sales, Spiritual Diary, p. 14).

We exert our influence by serving on hospital and also medical society committees. The opinion of a practicing Catholic physician is respected. Let us not be afraid to be ridicule, but act out of love for our patients and ultimately for the