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Message from the Spiritual Advisor: Lack of Self-Worth

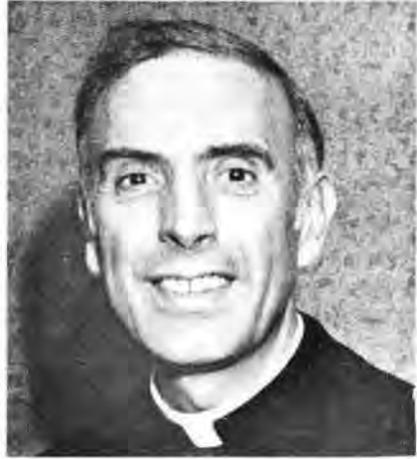
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



Lack of Self-Worth

George Gallup, in his 1984 report on "Religion in America", stated that the biggest disease in America today is not cancer or heart disease, but a person's lack of self-worth.

There are many persons who are lonely, unemployed, feel unwanted, depressed and homeless. There are also great numbers who see themselves as failures in their marriage, in their work and in their studies. To ease their pain, some have resorted to drugs, alcohol, overeating, divorce, violence and even suicide. These effects are interpreted as the results of human weakness, or by some, as the evil of our fallen nature, namely original sin. However it is viewed, it is important that every individual be open to examine his or her own negativity.

The physician's presence in his "holy" place is most valuable and his worth indisputable when examining the patient asking for his help. With his medical knowledge, his words of encouragement, counsel, affirmation and inspiration, the physician's treatment becomes more than therapeutic; it becomes his "healing ointment". Believing that where two or more are gathered in God's name, He is present, the physician of faith, prepared to uplift one who is "down and out", is open to God's grace to work through him.

In the life of Our Blessed Mother, this experience of extraordinary grace had taken place through her. When she was called to become the Mother of God, she immediately responded to serve as His maid. Her answer to the angel's invitation was "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me

according to Thy Word". (Luke 2:38). Through Mary's faith and humility, salvation history became a reality. Redemption was given to humanity through God's only begotten Son, and fallen nature soared to eternal heights.

It is through the physician that God's grace becomes efficacious when, as a servant, he opens himself to his sisters and brothers in pain. He becomes empowered, through His Spirit, to raise the debilitated to strength, restore the sick to health, and direct those going astray to sainthood.

In the paradox — your humility as a servant, exalts you as a doctor of grandeur. Your mission to serve becomes your honor to "treat" Christ, as His words are: "Whatever you do for the least of My brethren you do for Me" (Matt 25:40). In giving your time to the troubled, you are raised with them to new life.

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti