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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

radiate God's image, and that is to love Him with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. To show us the way, Jesus prayed, forgave 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 raised 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
