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Message from the Spiritual Advisor: Physicians' 'Faith Vision'

Dino J. Lorenzetti

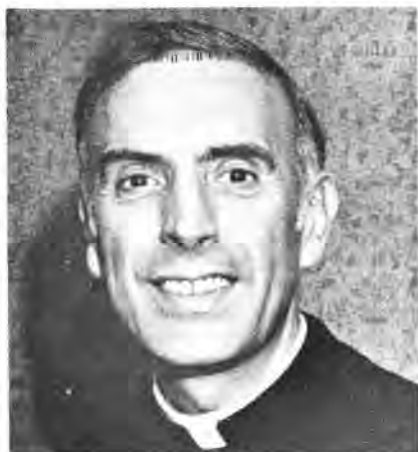
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor



Physicians' 'Faith Vision'

Physicians are called to "see" problem ailments, often invisible disorders which are causing pain, discomfort and sickness. The human eye frequently can detect the abnormality, but more often than not, it is left up to the doctor to determine "if there is anything there."

Catholic physicians are expected to see the same conditions as their colleagues, but with a "faith-vision," so as to look even deeper into what it is that ails their patients. This vision enables them to see the hidden strengths and weaknesses of their patients and to direct them toward new avenues of recovery.

While an eagle has extraordinary sharpness of vision so it can see a lizard resting on a rock some thousand feet below, the human eye is certainly not expected to view such distant objects with precision. People of faith are given a "gifted vision" which enables them to see goodness in others, to understand strength in compassion, to radiate courage to those who believe in them and above all, to rely on the healing power of God's love.

Many saints, and the apostles in particular, upon meeting Jesus felt compelled to "leave all and follow Him." Encountering His magnetism and His holiness gave them the inspiration to leave their former style of life, pick up their cross daily and, if necessary, accept death heroically for Him.

These so-called ordinary men were perhaps looked upon in their day as unimportant citizens, yet they turned out to be the heroes of the Church for all generations. Their dramatic and fearless deaths

brought about their canonization as martyrs and saints as they displayed the power of the Divine Spirit which transformed these weak individuals into extraordinary lovers of the Lord.

All baptized Christians are called to grow in holiness, to be perfected in the law of Jesus, and to follow in His way. In responding to this call, a new look takes place as a sparkle of His love glistens in the eyes of the believer. When others see this, they are mysteriously attracted by this eternal quality of goodness. Its "superhuman" power transforms those in pain as they become uplifted, encouraged and inspired to strive toward goals which make them, by all standards, truly heroic.

Some youngsters claim to have "seen it all" by the time they are 18, yet experience shows that in the process of seeing, as in the process of healing, it most always takes a lot of time, a tremendous amount of patience, a great deal of effort and a never-ending abundance of love.

As physicians of faith, the needs of your patients must be seen by you and the depth of your Christian vocation must be always seen by them.

Like Bartimaeus (Mark 10) begging the Lord "to see," we, too, plead for this gift — to see ourselves as we really are and to see with a "faith vision" all who look to us in their need. Above all, we plead for the sparkle of softness in our eyes so that all may see the depth of His Divine Love. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

— Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti
