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Message from the Spiritual Advisor: Modern Age Challenges Physicians

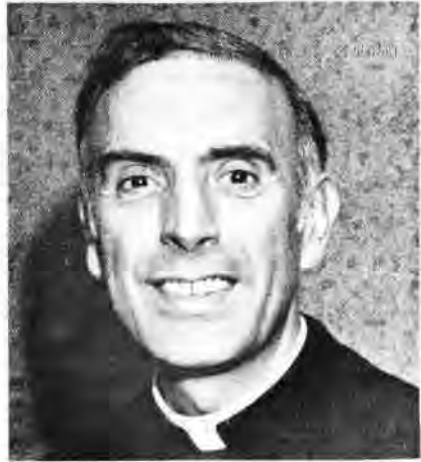
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Message from the Spiritual Advisor

Modern Age Challenges Physicians

No generation has ever challenged the physician of faith as the people of this modern age. With statutory controls over medical practice, with extraordinary insurance premiums for malpractice, with difficult ethical questions to resolve in biogenetics, with tremendous family stresses in the home, the doctor is compelled to act in a seemingly uncompromising position.

His inability to freely exercise his sacred vocation without reprisal is indisputable. Yet in spite of the ever-new obstacles in his path towards caring for the sick, he must proceed with confidence, recognizing that the Spirit of God, His Spirit of healing, is within him.

Isaiah (C.35), proclaims: "Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage, do not be afraid'".

To have courage and speak out, at the risk of being ridiculed by one's colleagues, to the doctrines that proclaim sanctity of life, shows that you have faith. To suffer what is seemingly humiliation when in disagreement with famed popular scientists on doctrines of truth, places you among the blessed. To see the solution to the problem not necessarily as the secularist in the light of humanitarianism, but as a person of faith who sees the solution in conformity with the laws of the Creator, is to share the vision of the prophet.

In defending one's position courageously, it is important that at all times the individual be a person of prayer; that his words to God are in keeping with his actions towards his sisters and brothers in need of his services; that charity, compassion and patience be especially among the virtues that exemplify him as a believer; that in his practice he has the courage to witness his faith by the way he treats his patient; that as a physician of faith he constantly has but one goal in mind; the salvation of his immortal soul,

and the souls of those in his beloved family and of the people he serves.

There will always be a distinction between the physician, and the physician of faith. The latter has more to offer than scientific medical knowledge and care. The faithful person sees each individual as his sister and brother, every human being made to the image and likeness of God, every person being destined for eternal life, and sees himself as one called to heal, privileged to touch that debilitated patient who is to live forever.

May God the Father reward you for your dedication towards His people and may He praise you as He did His Son, Jesus, namely in claiming Him as beloved, and one in Whom He was well pleased . . .

—Msgr. Dino J. Lorenzetti

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