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## Diocese of Miami: Office of the Bishop

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# Diocese of Miami

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



BISHOP CARROLL

In language more lucid than ever before, the Second Vatican Council defined the role of the layman as that of an apostle. This indeed was not entirely new, but the impressive clarification of the apostolic role of men and women is new and challenging.

The characterization of the layman as a missionary seems most apt when applied to medical men. Traditionally their vocation in the care of the sick has more than a mere touch of the sacred about it. Theirs has been the responsibility to do all possible to preserve the masterpiece of God's creation — the human body.

The doctor, now seen as an apostle, adds a new and inspiring dimension to his role as a physician. Who can adequately describe his missionary field in office, home and sickroom, among professional men and women, as a respected citizen.

While caring for the body and its needs, he can give witness to Christ for the salvation of souls under favorable circumstances few other men enjoy. By actively living out his own convictions of faith and with the prestige of his professional standing he appears before men as living proof that science and religion can be reconciled. Indeed more than reconciled, they can be united for the glory of God and the well being of all men.

We are heartened by the awareness that the Catholic Physicians' Guilds are uniting our medical men in objectives of this kind. May God prosper all your apostolic efforts to bear such witness to Christ in private and public.

†Most Reverend Coleman F. Carroll  
Bishop of Miami