CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

December 2024 Newsletter

President's Column

"Come Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20)

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach the conclusion of our spiritual journey through Advent in preparation for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity, we pray, Maranatha! (1 Cor. 16:22)

Advent is a season of celebration, anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. We celebrate His coming in Bethlehem in years past, anticipate His second coming in the future, and prepare for His coming into our lives now that we might respond faithfully to His command to "Go forth and proclaim the Gospel." (Mk. 16:25)

The proclamation of the good news of Christ's life, death and Resurrection for our salvation is the message all the world longs for and it is the mission of all Christians. Every one of us has a role to play in the Divine plan of God to "restore all things in Christ." (Eph. 1:10)

Father Bonaventure Perquin, O.P., relates the importance of our participation in God's plan for His whole creation very beautifully. "The purpose of our existence is to make our insignificant but nevertheless indispensable contribution toward the beauty of the whole mosaic."

In a Christmas homily given in 1963, St. Josemaria Escriva also reflected on the mystery of our inclusion in the Opus Dei, that is the Work of God, and the name of the religious organization he founded. He said, "The Almighty wants us to know he is defenseless, that he needs men's help. From the cradle at Bethlehem, the Christ Child tells you and me that he needs us."

Those of us called to the vocation of medicine have the profound privilege and responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel by our participation in the healing ministry established by Christ Himself and carried on in the Church for two millennia.

And while we face seemingly insurmountable challenges today in medical practice transformed by the post-Christian ideologies of secularism, materialism and relativism, we are enlightened and inspired by the heroism of the saints who have preceded us like St. Joan of Arc, who in response to a question regarding her mission and whether she was afraid said this: "I fear nothing for God is with me. I was born for this."

So we cry out with confidence, Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus! Send your Spirit to enlighten our minds and direct our wills in harmony with Yours. Then by restoring Your mind and heart to the practice of medicine, we will be able to proclaim the good news of your love and mercy as we strive to alleviate the physical, emotional and spiritual suffering afflicting the world today.

Historically, the Catholic Church has consistently provided and set the standard for the competent and compassionate care of the sick and dying since the time of Christ. In every era, Catholic vowed religious and laity, with the guidance and support of their Bishops, have responded to countless challenges in the delivery of medical care to those in need.

The mission of the Catholic Health Care Leadership Alliance is to ensure that this work of God continues. Through evangelization, education, public advocacy and mutual support, in collaboration with all those involved in the delivery of Catholic healthcare, and with the Love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are establishing a program for the development of the next generation of the Church's healthcare ministry.

As we conclude our third year and consider our accomplishments and the abundant blessings we have received, we thank all of you who have helped to make this possible through your prayers and financial support.

We extend our prayers and heartfelt wishes to all of you for a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

God Bless,
Steven White, M.D.
President, CHCLA