CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

February 2025 Newsletter

President's Column

Mary, Mother of Hope, pray for us. (Litany of Loreto)

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Jubilee Year is underway and as "pilgrims of hope" we are called to accompany those suffering from discouragement and despair amid the storms of life by sharing the "reason for our hope" (1 Peter 3:15) in Jesus Christ, and encouraging them to seek a renewal of hope through a personal encounter with Christ.

Pope Francis points out that, "Today our world is experiencing a tragic 'famine' of hope. So much pain, emptiness, and inconsolable grief surrounds us! Let's help each other discover this encounter with Christ who gives us life and let's set out on a journey as pilgrims of hope to celebrate that life. Let's fill our lives with the gift of hope that God gives us, and through us, let's allow it to reach everyone who is looking for it."

In our vocation as medical professionals we have the opportunity to be agents of God's mercy to those whom we serve, thereby restoring lost hope. But this is only possible if we, too, allow our hearts to be transformed by a personal encounter with Christ, an encounter described by Pope St John Paul as "unique in kind," and in which God reveals His will that through Christ, man has access to the Father in the Holy Spirit and comes to share in the divine nature. (Dei Verbum #2) (2 Peter 1:3-4) In this way, we become

"coworkers in His service," (1 Cor 3:9) trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16)

This trust in God will sustain our hope in the challenging circumstances of life as demonstrated best in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout her life, from her fiat at the Annunciation to her agony at the foot of the Cross, she consistently responded with unwavering trust and humble submission to God's will and is therefore a perfect exemplar of the virtue of hope.

And not only is she a model to imitate, but as the mother of Jesus Christ who is our Hope, (1 Tim 1:1) and as our spiritual mother, (John 19: 26-27) her intercession on our behalf helps us to humbly submit to God's will and to help others to do likewise in the trials of life.

Throughout the Gospel, trust in the power of Christ to heal is a prerequisite for healing those who approach Him. Due to the remarkable advances in medical science and technology today there is a temptation to ignore the reality that all healing remains within the providence of the Divine Physician, who is sovereign over all human affairs. (Prov 19:21) And while it is true that by the grace of God we have tools at our disposal enabling us to relieve a great deal of human suffering, only the supernatural virtue of hope and trust in God's love and mercy will heal the suffering associated with the epidemic of despair afflicting the world today.

Let us pray through the powerful intercession of Mary, Mother of Hope, that as "pilgrims of hope" we may all be transformed by a personal encounter with her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and through Him, with Him and in Him become instruments of His Divine Mercy, providing hope and healing to those we serve in the ministry of Catholic health care.

God Bless,
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President, CHCLA