CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

May 2024 Newsletter

President's Column

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Dear Friends in Christ,

Now that we have completed our journey together through the season of Easter and celebrated its culmination on the Feast of Pentecost with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel from Matthew (Mt. 28:16-20) on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity directs our attention back to Jesus sending forth the disciples on mission. "Go therefore," He says, "and make disciples of all nations… teaching them to observe all that I have commanded… and I am with you always, until the end of time."

This message is a reminder that the life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord not only reestablished our relationship with the Father for our personal sanctification, but through the indwelling and power of the Holy Spirit the faithful are enlightened and empowered to go forth on mission to build the Kingdom of God. While Moses marveled over the signs and wonders performed by God in the Exodus of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, (Dt. 4:32-40) how much more remarkable that we have been set free from sin and death and are sent forth to carry out the Father's will to "restore all things in Christ." (Eph. 1:9-10)

This year I was blessed to spend Pentecost weekend on retreat with my medical colleagues, led by a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei at the retreat house of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. The focus was the universal

call to holiness and apostolate in the life of the laity, particularly as it relates to medical professionals. We were reminded that St. Josemaria Escriva encouraged the laity to respond to their call to holiness in the ordinary events of their daily lives. He said, "God calls you to serve him in and from the ordinary… There is something holy, something hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of you to discover it."

Furthermore, St Josemaria said, "Sanctity (holiness) for the vast majority of people, implies sanctifying their work, sanctifying themselves in it, and sanctifying others through it." His message was definitively affirmed decades later in the documents of the Second Vatican Council.

So those of us involved in all facets of Catholic healthcare ministry are called to holiness in our service to the sick, the suffering and the dying. Our work is sanctified to the extent it is done for the love of God. And this love of God is the fruit of prayer leading to our sanctification in union with Christ, who then pours forth His mercy and love to sanctify those we minister to. In the words of St Josemaria, "Work is born of love; it is a manifestation of love and is directed toward love." Catholic health care in its essence is a communion of persons in a covenant of love.

Therefore, in our work we have the opportunity to fulfill the command of our Lord to love God and neighbor. Therein lies the key to holiness and the secret of happiness: life in Christ through the Holy Spirit for the glory of the Father and the sanctification of souls.

The mission of CHCLA is to unite in mind and heart the leaders from every discipline involved in the delivery of Catholic health care to ensure that our response to the commandment to love through the healing ministry established by Christ and sustained by holy men and women for two thousand years, continues to flourish for the healing of the mind, heart and soul of mankind.

Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to this opus dei.

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