CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

June 2025 Newsletter

President's Column

"In the One, we are one."

Dear Friends in Christ,

In choosing these words of St. Augustine as his episcopal motto, Pope Leo XIV expresses his desire for unity. He spoke of this in a 2023 interview with Vatican News: "As can be seen from my episcopal motto, unity and communion are truly part of the charism of the Order of St. Augustine, and also of my way of acting and thinking."

In his first address to the people of the United States on the eve of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Pope Leo addressed the importance of unity, directing our attention to Christ, the One in whom we are one, and calling us to communion with God and one another.

He said, "The Trinity is a model of God's love for us. God: Father, Son and Spirit. Three persons in one God live united in the depth of love, in community, sharing that communion with all of us. I want to encourage you to continue to build up community, friendship, as brothers and sisters, in your families, in your parishes…and throughout the world."

He also reminds us that the love of God brings hope and journeying together through this Jubilee Year of Hope as friends and as brothers and sisters in community, the Lord's grace can truly heal us and be the source of that hope we all need in our lives.

Healthcare professionals have a particular responsibility to be witnesses of hope and to strive for unity amid challenging circumstances and profound confusion in society regarding fundamental issues of human life – such as, whether a human life can be terminated by abortion or euthanasia, or whether an individual's sexual identity can be altered by chemical or surgical means, or whether human beings should be manufactured in laboratories by technicians rather than being conceived in the loving marital embrace designed by God.

We must promote unity founded on truth and communion rooted in love: the truth regarding what is morally right or wrong found in Sacred Scripture and the Church's Sacred Tradition, and loving communion with God and one another, which is the fruit of prayer, personal sacrifice and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

As the "source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324), the Eucharist is the sacrament of unity and charity as described by Pope St. Paul VI in his encyclical letter *Mysterium Fidei*. "Our Savior left the Eucharist to his Church as a symbol of her unity and of the charity with which he wanted all Christians to be closely united to one another."

It is also the sacrament of hope, for it is the Real Presence of Christ Himself who is our hope (1Tim 1:1). This hope is not an abstract concept or wishful thinking, but confident assurance in the promises of Christ, which we rely on; not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1817). In the words of Pope Benedict XVI in *Spe Salvi*, this hope is a reality that is "transformative and performative," actively shaping our lives.

Our participation in the Eucharist unites us to Christ enabling us to share God's healing love and mercy with one another in our service to the sick, and to respond to our Holy Father's call, "to bring the hope of the Gospel into the world so that all may experience God's embrace."

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