

Fr. Rosado interview continued

3. How does it 'work' to practice as a medical doctor and as a pastor of a church? How many hours in the day are there to take care of your medical patients and your parishioners?

Doctors like clergy are always on call, but prevention, education, empowering people to take care of their health be it physical or spiritual is an essential part of our ministry. I have tried to make that a priority in my ministry as a pastor! People have direct access to God: He can be accessed through prayer and through the Scripture. The church is a family, the body of Christ endowed with many gifts, the Holy Spirit is ever near, present to all in a way clergy cannot be. Empowered, active parishioners, doing what God has gifted them to do, minister alongside clergy and all help in the work of the ministry!

The majority of ministers are supposed to be lay persons! Where the pastor is needed, I have had the grace to always be there, where it is the ministry of others, I should not be! It is no different in-patient care! Engaged, informed patients will be partners with the doctor in their health care and hopefully stay healthier. God's grace, and the help of others, my wife and family, lay people committed to God and to the church serving in the vestry and other ministries, amazing office staff and medical assistants have over the years made my profession and vocation manageable and enjoyable even when there have been unexpected emergencies. And in all of it looming is God's help even as we declare often when we make covenantal promises... *"I will with God's help"*

4. What excites you most about your life and work as a priest and pastor?

I am excited by the amazing opportunity God gives me to help people in need of healing, and to see the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives I have the privilege of touching with his grace. There is no feeling as wonderful as seeing someone turn their life to Christ perhaps for the first time or if they have been distant from God. To see lives transformed over time, sometimes slowly or with setbacks but changing for the better because of God's help is so rewarding. To feel the presence of God while in common prayer or see the devotion in which young and old receive Christ in the Eucharist, these are things we all love.

As a doctor I too rely on the Holy Spirit but do have to make use of the training and ever-changing advances in the field of medicine. When I can soothe a person worried about their health, give them medication that can help them recover or treat a chronic illness, discover the reason and hopefully a treatment for a malady it is very rewarding.

When patients are not able to recover from an illness, have condition we are unable to treat, face the natural end of their life due to aging or are the victims of tragedy I am glad that I can offer some comfort, be present and available to listen, advise and compassionately treat what I can.

I love the honesty of medicine! In the office visit, there are less masks, we are vulnerable, we all are human, needy at times, imperfect, and mortal! In the practice of medicine race, creed, politics, differences of opinion, appearance, wealth or lack thereof matter little! People may lie to clergy, but they seldom lie to their doctors about who they really are and what really ails them!

My role has been to help, to heal to comfort to educate, not ever to judge or condemn. I like that...church should have some more of that perspective!

5. How do you view the future of the Church? If you were St Luke writing the contemporary 'Book of Acts' today: how would you tell the story of the Church's mission and place in the world today and where you see the Lord leading us?

The few disciples in the Book of Acts were not characteristically learned men, nor religious scholars, and likely had no idea nor well laid plans for how to preach the Gospel to all nations. They also had no money as Peter said to a paralytic...silver and gold have we not!

They *did have* a fresh encounter with the promised Holy Spirit and often they were steps behind what God was already doing. They seemed fearless in following that lead, to Samaria, to an Ethiopian eunuch by a roadside, to women at a river shrine!

I see a future for the Church where we are more reliant on the Holy Spirit, willing to take risks, do things differently and when called for---and are not afraid to share the Gospel and point to Christ as Savior of the world.

I pray that inclusion and diversity become more real than just words in our church. And, that led by the Spirit, we invite and truly welcome people of different races and ethnicities, languages cultures, opinions, political preferences and socioeconomic backgrounds, many of whom surround the neighborhoods where our parishes are established! The Gospel values of forgiveness, grace, equality before God peace brought by the Spirit despite diversity, help and hope brought to the needy and hurting-- being lived out in our parishes-- would be a marvelous model, a shining light in an ever-divided world. What a wonderful vision for the future of our Church and our Diocese!



