

Francis: 'No life is more valuable than another'

Thomas C. Fox | Sep. 20, 2013 | The Francis Chronicles

Pope Francis today met with members of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations and Catholic gynecologists, and spoke of the current paradoxical situation of the medical profession, Vatican news reported.

“On the one hand we see progress in the field of medicine, thanks to the work of scientists who passionately and unreservedly dedicate themselves to the search for new cures. On the other hand, however, we also encounter the risk that doctors lose sight of their identity in the service of life. He referred to the Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* to explain that this paradoxical situation is seen also in the fact that, “while new rights are attributed to or indeed almost presumed by the individual, life is not always protected as the primary value and the primordial right of every human being.

The ultimate aim of medicine remains the defense and promotion of life. Faced with this contradictory situation, Francis renewed the Church's appeal to the conscience of all healthcare professionals and volunteers, especially gynecologists. “Yours is a singular vocation and mission, which necessitates study, conscience and humanity”, he said.

Again, Francis spoke of the “throwaway culture” that leads to the elimination of human beings, especially those who are physically and socially weakest. “Our response to this mentality is a ‘yes’ to life, decisive and without hesitation. ‘The first right of the human person is his life. He has other goods and some are precious, but this one is fundamental – the condition for all the others’.”

Reiterating that in recent times, human life in its entirety has become a priority for the Magisterium of the Church, he emphasized that “goods have a price and can be sold, but people have dignity, they are worth more than goods and have no price.”

Francis asked those present to “bear witness to and disseminate this ‘culture of life’ – remind all, through actions and words, that in all its phases and at any age, life is always sacred and always of quality. And not as a matter of faith, but of reason and science! There is no human life more sacred than another, just as there exists no human life qualitatively more meaningful than another.”

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