

SAINTS ALIVE! OCTOBER 18, ST. LUKE, PATRON OF DOCTORS



Luke, the writer of the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, was a Greek and a Gentile. He was a close associate of St. Paul. He was also a physician.

Doctors are pillars of the medical profession and one essential leg of our system of healthcare.

The Catholic Church has long been a voice for health care as a right. In his address to the United Nations, St. John Paul II explained that “Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency: [including healthcare].”

Sixty years ago, President Truman’s files contained letters from the U.S. Catholic Bishops supporting national health care.

In 1981, in support of national health care, the U.S. Bishops wrote that “the government, working for the common good, has an essential role to play in assuring that the right of all people to adequate health care is protected,” and that “genuine health care reform must protect human life and dignity, not threaten them, especially for the most voiceless and vulnerable.”

Becoming a doctor is a noble profession. Appropriately honored are those whose lives are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of their patients, whose talents are used to saving lives, restoring a chance for a future, and providing hope to friends and families, whose focus never wavers from the human element in the larger equation of progress, profit and productivity.

We offer our appreciation to doctors who are motivated to protect human life and dignity especially for the most voiceless and vulnerable.

Let us offer a prayer of gratitude for all our doctors and physicians through the intercession of Saint Luke.



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