



Abp. Vincenzo Paglia
President – Pontifical Academy for Life
Homily – Shrine of Our Lady of Altagracia (Puerto Rico)
October 15, 2021

As part of the Symposium *The challenges of healthcare in today's world*, which begins today in Punta Cana (Santo Domingo), the inaugural Mass is held at the Shrine of Our Lady of *Altagracia*.

Archbishop Paglia presides over the ceremony and delivers the homily.

Among other things, Archbishop Paglia highlights two aspects of "care" in today's situation.

"Physicians - and particularly Christian physicians - are called to make every effort to help men and women live better lives and to witness the importance of caring for one another. Illness is not only a medical issue: it is also a demand for help, for love, for life. The healings in the Gospels should be read in this context. Today they represent a challenge to the disciples - including doctors - to be more daring in accompanying the sick. The sick must always be accompanied, never abandoned, even when healing is no longer possible".

"There is a huge demand for healing in the world today. So many people today go in search of magical, occult, miraculous, astrological practices! I believe that this frantic search for protection, safety and healing is a demand that often goes unheeded. The Church is called to take up this challenge. Our Churches - and your hearts too, dear doctors - must be like the house in Capernaum at whose door everyone brought sick people so that Jesus could touch them. Love and prayer make possible what seems impossible to men. This is also the meaning of this Shrine and of the many shrines throughout the world. They are truly like many 'houses in Capernaum' where many flock to be healed and saved".

Vatican City, October 14, 2021