

Who Is Important?

In March of 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot by John Hinckley Jr., and was hospitalized for several weeks.

Although Reagan was the nation's chief executive, his hospitalization had little impact on the country's activity. Government continued on, and so did the private sector.

On the other hand, suppose garbage collectors in this country went on strike, as they did in Philadelphia in 1986. *Time* magazine reported: "For 18 days, while the municipal garbage collectors remained on strike, the waste amounted to an estimated 20,000 tons. Clouds of flies hovered everywhere, rats scurried from their rancid treasure. Plastic trash bags became toxic balloons, swollen tight by noxious fumes from the inside."

A nationwide strike like that would paralyze the country.

Who is more important – the President or a garbage collector? The answer is obvious. Both have essential roles to fulfill.



It's true in the spiritual realm, too. In the body of Christ, seemingly insignificant ones are urgently needed. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "The head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable" (1 Corinthians 12:21-22).

And it's true in health care as well. Every job in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home is very important.

We cannot fulfill the mission to which we are called without the application of the professional gifts of each person, administered in a spirit of love and compassion.

– Beecher Hunter