

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO ARE ILL

**"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."
Matthew 21:22**



Sickness always feels wrong. Nothing spurs us to urgent prayer more than the sickness of someone close to us. We turn to God almost with indignation: This is wrong. You must be on our side. He is on our side. One constant theme of the gospels is the campaign against sickness. The touch of Jesus cures the bleeding woman. He takes Jairus' daughter by the hand and she stands up, hungry. He is on the side of life, health and appetite.

We struggle for these things, in ourselves and others, all through our life. Scientists identifying the genes that constitute our body are part of that struggle to make the world healthier. We are now the hands and touch of Jesus. When we nurse or care for the sick, or use our brains to keep them and ourselves healthy, we are continuing Jesus' work. We are made for never-ending life in heaven, but also to struggle for health and life in this world. We pray for it, and we also work for it.



We pause and remember that we are always and everywhere in the presence of the Holy One Who pitched His tent among us and loves us with an everlasting love. We are His people and He is our God. In the name of GOD the FATHER Who is HOLY.
In the name of the SON Who is REDEEMER
and in the name of the SPIRIT Who invites us to grow in grace and life; all honor and glory, praise and thanksgiving be Yours, now and forever.

PSALM 102

O Lord, hear our prayer
and let our cry come to You.
Hide not Your face from us
in the day of our distress.
Incline Your ear to us;
in the day when we call,
answer us speedily.
O Lord, we put our trust in You.
Let us not be put to shame.



ALLELUIA!

**He took our sickness away, and carried our diseases for us.
Matthew 8:17**

**Blessed be the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort Who
consoles us in all our affliction. 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4**

**My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches
perfection. May the power of Christ rest upon us. 2 Corinthians 12:9**

ALLELUIA!

II CORINTHIANS 4, 7-15

**We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that
this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.
We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not
driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not
destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the
life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.**

MARK 3: 7 - 12

**Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea, and a great multitude
from Galilee followed; also from Judea and Jerusalem and from
beyond the Jordan and from about Tyre and Sidon a great multitude,
hearing all that He did, came to Him. And He told His disciples to
have a boat ready for Him because of the crowd, lest they should
crush Him; for He had healed many, so that all who had diseases
pressed upon Him to touch Him.**

**And whenever the unclean spirits beheld Him, they fell down before
Him and cried out, "You are the Son of God."**

And He strictly ordered them not to make Him known.



**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
FOR THE FIFTEENTH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*On 11 February 2007, when the Church keeps the liturgical memorial
of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Fifteenth World Day of the Sick will be
celebrated in Seoul, Korea. Once again the Church turns her eyes to
those who suffer and calls attention to the incurably ill, many of
whom are dying from terminal diseases. They are found on every
continent, particularly in places where poverty and hardship cause
immense misery and grief.*

*Sickness inevitably brings with it a moment of crisis and sober
confrontation with one's own personal situation. Advances in the
health sciences often provide the means necessary to meet this
challenge, at least with regard to its physical aspects. Human life,
however, has intrinsic limitations, and sooner or later it ends in*

death. This is an experience to which each human being is called, and one for which he or she must be prepared. Despite the advances of science, a cure cannot be found for every illness, and thus, in hospitals, hospices and homes throughout the world we encounter the sufferings of our many brothers and sisters who are incurably and often terminally ill. In addition, many millions of people in our world still experience unsanitary living conditions and lack access to much-needed medical resources, often of the most basic kind, with the result that the number of human beings considered "incurable" is greatly increased.

The Church wishes to support the incurably and terminally ill by calling for just social policies which can help to eliminate the causes of many diseases and by urging improved care for the dying and those for whom no medical remedy is available. There is a need to promote policies which create conditions where human beings can bear even incurable illnesses and death in a dignified manner. Here it is necessary to stress once again the need for more palliative care centers which provide integral care, offering the sick the human assistance and spiritual accompaniment they need. This is a right belonging to every human being, one that we must all be committed to defend.

Here I would like to encourage the efforts of those who work daily to ensure that the incurably and terminally ill, together with their families, receive adequate and loving care. The Church, following the example of the Good Samaritan, has always shown particular concern for the infirm. Through her individual members and institutions, she continues to stand alongside the suffering and to attend the dying, striving to preserve their dignity at these significant moments of human existence. Many such individuals – health care professionals, pastoral agents and volunteers – and institutions throughout the world are tirelessly serving the sick, in hospitals and in palliative care units, on city streets, in housing projects and parishes.

I now turn to you, my dear brothers and sisters suffering from incurable and terminal diseases. I encourage you to contemplate the sufferings of Christ crucified, and, in union with him, to turn to the Father with complete trust that all life, and your lives in particular, are in his hands. Trust that your sufferings, united to those of Christ, will prove fruitful for the needs of the Church and the world. I ask the Lord to strengthen your faith in his love, especially during these trials that you are experiencing. It is my hope that, wherever you are, you will always find the spiritual encouragement and strength needed to nourish your faith and bring you closer to the Father of Life. Through her priests and pastoral workers, the Church wishes to assist you and stand at your side, helping you in your hour of need, and thus making present Christ's own loving mercy towards those who suffer.

In conclusion, I ask ecclesial communities throughout the world, and particularly those dedicated to the service of the infirm, to continue, with the help of Mary, Salus Infirmorum, to bear effective witness to the loving concern of God our Father. May the Blessed Virgin, our Mother, comfort those who are ill and sustain all who have devoted their lives, as Good Samaritans, to healing the physical and spiritual wounds of those who suffer. United to each of you in thought and prayer, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Lord.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

INTERCESSIONS

O God, Everlasting Love, enfleshed in Christ Jesus, poured upon us through the Holy Spirit, we come to You today to receive our prayer for those among us who are ill.

Response: Her us, we beg You.

Tender, compassionate God, fill us that we may receive all who are ill, with your love, we pray . . .

Life-giving God, fill us that our faith will assure those who are suffering, that their pain will blossom into life, we pray . . .

Strength-giving God, pour into all who care for the sick, the embracing, enduring love of Jesus, we pray . . .

Source of Love, fill us with vision and courage to pursue research that will bear fruit in healing, we pray . . .

Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to you, we pray . . .

Righteous God, empower us to struggle against the injustices of the present health care systems, we pray . . .

O God, hear our prayer—these we have spoken and those yet in our hearts. We trust in your loving response, through Christ the Risen One, our Divine Healer. Amen.

*"An ancient principle reminds us to look for salvation
in the darkest, most painful parts of our lives.
We emerge into the light not by denying our pain,
but by walking out through it.
The common turn of phrase we apply to this wonderful action of
grace is:
'that was a blessing in disguise.'"*

Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

Guilt is the Teacher, Love is the Lesson

**Merciful God,
hear our voices joined with people
all over the world
in languages foreign and familiar
each tradition calls You by different names.
Yet, this day,
we speak in a single voice,
united in prayer for the sick.**

**O Gentle Companion,
help all suffering people to recognize
Your sacred presence in the broken space of their lives.
Send Your healing spirit to all who suffer
the pain of physical, emotional, and spiritual illness.
May Your gift of laughter be light
for their long lonely nights.**

**Bless those whose lives are ending.
Free them from fear.
Surround them with the comfort and peace
of Your love.
Remind them of Your promises;
life beyond life,
love beyond our understanding.**

**In hope and trust we celebrate this prayer
as we praise and thank You
for the goodness and beauty
with which You have blessed our lives and our world.
Amen.**

Elinor Quill, NACC Cert.

Leader: Would those who would like a special blessing,
please come forward.

Reader: A reading from the letter of James (5: 13–15)

Is anyone among you suffering? They should pray.

Is anyone in good spirits? They should sing praise.

Is anyone among you sick? They should summon the presbyters of
the church, and they should pray over them and anoint them with oil
in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick
persons, and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed any
sins, they will be forgiven.

Leader: The Lord be with you!

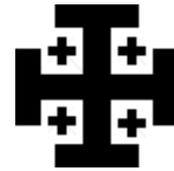
All: And also with you.

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All: Both now and forever.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.



Prayer over person:

Through your faith in the Lord Jesus,
with the prayers of the Christian community gathered together here,
and the healing touch of Jesus,
may you be strengthened in health
of mind, body and soul
so that you may continue to proclaim the goodness of God.

HYMN: JESUS HEAL US

Jesus heal us; Jesus.

Jesus, hear us now.

All who fear the Lord: Wait for God's mercy.

All who love the Lord: Come, He will fill you.

All who fear the Lord: Follow the way.

All who love the Lord: Hope in God's goodness.

All who fear the Lord: Keep your hearts prepared.

All who love the Lord: Be humbled in God's presence.

All who trust in the Lord: God will uphold you.

Let us cling to our God, Let us fall in the arms of the Lord.

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**Our Lady, Solace of the Sick and Suffering,
pray for us.**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help all the sick and infirm to unite their suffering
with that of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.



**COME
TO ME, ALL
YOU WHO ARE
WEARY & BURDENED,
& I WILL GIVE YOU REST.**

MATTHEW 11:28