

**World Day of the Sick**  
**February 11, 2020**  
**Blessing by priest and Prayers of Intercession**

**Invitation to congregation for the blessing:**

“Within our Catholic faith tradition, health care is a ministry of the Church, continuing Jesus’ mission of love and healing today. The ministry of health care brings together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds, who together serve as ‘good Samaritans,’ stopping along the way to show the compassion and love of Jesus.

Those who serve in the ministry of health care are involved in preventative, acute and long-term care, specialized therapeutics, home care, parish nursing, end-of-life care, spiritual care, supportive counselling and the immense service of volunteerism. Still, others serve in health care to support, run, maintain, and administer personnel, buildings and equipment, institutional and technological systems. Others are in the community reaching out to the poor, visiting the lonely, and tangibly caring for the needs of the less-abled. And lest we forget - the many unpaid caregivers of their loved ones in their own home are also part of health care.

Ultimately, Catholic health care ministry is an activity of the whole Church – responding to human suffering and caring for the well-being of the whole person. Together, we build a faith community that is continuing the healing ministry of Jesus.

***So, at this time I invite ALL those who work and serve in health care to stand.”***

### **The Blessing:**

- **NOTE: There could be an accompanying action or gesture, for instance having the whole group sprinkled with holy water.**

Loving Father and giver of all life,

You are our support and you are always with us.

Hear our prayers for all support workers who are

on duty every day, caring for those who are suffering,

those who are weak and in need of perpetual help.

Blessed be the lives that have entered into the suffering of another;

Blessed be the arms that have embraced the sick with compassion;

Blessed be the hearts that have released anger and fear;

Blessed be the hands that have comforted the dying and held the dead;

And blessed be these caregivers to whom we commend all of the sick,  
the suffering and the aged.

Give strength and courage to our caregivers

to be instruments of your everlasting love

for all those who are in need of your protection.

We ask this in the name of Christ the Healer, your Son and our Lord, who  
lives with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

## Prayers of the Faithful:

**Presider:** As we gather to honour World Day of the Sick, we turn towards our Holy Father in trust and offer Him the following prayers and petitions:

**Lector:** The response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For the sick and hospitalized: may they feel the healing power of Christ and find comfort and hope in His constant presence. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all Catholic healthcare workers: may they be a light to others and a testament to the Word as they live their faith and care for their patients. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all students in the healthcare professions: may their studies be motivated by pure desires to be the hands of Christ and to offer healing and hope to those who are ill. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who do not have adequate access to healthcare: may we respond to their needs with love and compassion and seek creative solutions to bring healing to all. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For the vulnerable and marginalized in society, including those with mental and physical illness: may they always be treated with dignity and respect as children of God. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For administrators and government leaders: may they work to enact legislation and policies compatible with the fundamental ethical and social teachings of our Church, defending the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For hospital chaplains and those who care for the spiritual needs of the sick: may they offer words of wisdom and truth and be a warming presence to all those who are ill. We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**