

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Pope Francis, on the occasion of the 26th World Day of the Sick, states the following:

The Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick has found concrete expression throughout the two thousand years of her history in an impressive series of initiatives on behalf of the sick. This history of dedication must not be forgotten. It continues to the present day throughout the world. In countries where adequate public health care systems exist, the work of Catholic religious congregations and dioceses and their hospitals is aimed not only at providing quality medical care, but also at putting the human person at the center of the healing process, while carrying out scientific research with full respect for life and for Christian moral values. In countries where health care systems are inadequate or non-existent, the Church seeks to do what she can to improve health, eliminate infant mortality and combat widespread disease.

Everywhere she tries to provide care, even when she is not in a position to offer a cure. The image of the Church as a "field hospital" that welcomes all those wounded by life is a very concrete reality, for in some parts of the world, missionary and diocesan hospitals are the only institutions providing necessary care to the population.

(World Day of the Sick § 4)

Here we offer a prayer for those who work in the medical field. This prayer, adapted from the *Book of Blessings*, can be prayed at home as a family, after the Sunday Mass, or when people gather to celebrate the liturgy. The following readings may also be used: Tobit 12:6-13; Sirach 3:33—4:11; Sirach 7:36-39; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:12-17.

BLESSING OF ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC NEED

**Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy,
who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity
and the great commandment of love for one another.**

**Send down your blessings on those,
who so generously devote themselves to helping others.**

**When they are called on in times of need,
let them faithfully serve you in their neighbor.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Book of Blessings § 587