



And even if we know that we cannot always guarantee healing or a cure, we can and must always care for the living, without ourselves shortening their life, but also without futilely resisting their death. This approach is reflected in palliative care, which is proving most important in our culture, as it opposes what makes death most terrifying and unwelcome — pain and loneliness.

**POPE FRANCIS, NOVEMBER 2017**



**Let us together lift up our  
needs to our God, who is ever-present  
and always loving.**

God of all comfort, be with those who are sick and suffering. May they receive the medical, spiritual and psychological care they need; may they be supported in love by their family and friends, enabled to live well. We pray,

**ALL: GRACIOUS GOD, HEAR US.**

God of all companionship, be with those who care for others in their infirmity. Strengthen them with the graces of patience, love, joy and peace. Surround them with communities of care. We pray,

**ALL: GRACIOUS GOD, HEAR US.**

God of all people, move in our hearts that we may affirm the value of all human life through our action and advocacy on behalf of those who suffer.

Open our eyes to see you in the faces of those affected by serious illness that we may care for them as we would care for you. We pray,

**ALL: GRACIOUS GOD, HEAR US.**