



# Prayer

S E R V I C E

## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Since 1992, Pope John Paul II has celebrated World Day of the Sick on February 11, the day on which the church celebrates Our Lady of Lourdes. This celebration has had three consistent themes. First, it reminds all to pray intensely and sincerely for those who are sick. Second, the celebration invites Christians to reflect on and respond to human suffering. Finally, this day recognizes and honors all persons who work in health care and serve as caregivers. The following service is designed to honor all three themes.

*(This service incorporates the "Shared Statement of Identity for the Catholic Health Ministry" developed by the Catholic Health Association. This service could be adapted to use other resources from this project, including the video and/or the small printed cards. For more information, contact Ed Giganti at [egiganti@chausa.org](mailto:egiganti@chausa.org) or 314-253-3506.)*

### CALL TO PRAYER

**LEADER** On this World Day of the Sick, we gather along with many others throughout our nation and the world. We join together to pray for the needs of those who are ill and suffering, to recognize our responsibility to respond to this suffering, and to recommit ourselves to service in the healing ministry of the church.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**LEADER** We begin today with our prayers for those who are suffering,  
For those who feel overwhelmed by their sickness and pain,  
For those who are living with chronic illness,  
For those who are struggling with mental illnesses,  
For those who are dying in our hospitals and homes,  
For those who have no access to health care,  
For all the special intentions in our hearts,

**ALL** God of healing, hear our prayers.

**READING** (Mk 6:53-56) After crossing the lake, Jesus and the disciples came ashore at Gennesaret and tied up their boat there. No sooner had they stepped out of the boat than people recognized Jesus. The crowds started hurrying about the countryside and brought the sick on stretchers wherever Jesus went. Wherever he appeared—in villages, in towns, or in the countryside—they laid down the sick in the open places, begging him to let them touch just the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched Jesus got well.

### RESPONSE

**LEADER** We remember that the work entrusted to us is part of a long tradition of responding to those in need. Today, this service has an institutional presence of which we are an important part. We respond by recognizing our role in the ministry of Catholic health care.

**ALL** We are the people of Catholic health care, a ministry of the church continuing Jesus' mission of love and healing today.

**READER 1** As provider, employer, advocate, citizen—bringing together people of diverse faiths and backgrounds—our ministry is an enduring sign of health care rooted in our belief that every person is a treasure, every life a sacred gift, every human being a unity of body, mind, and spirit.

**READER 2** We work to bring alive the Gospel vision of justice and peace.

**ALL** We answer God's call to foster healing, act with compassion, and promote wellness for all persons and communities, with special attention to our neighbors who are poor, underserved, and most vulnerable. By our service, we strive to transform hurt into hope.

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