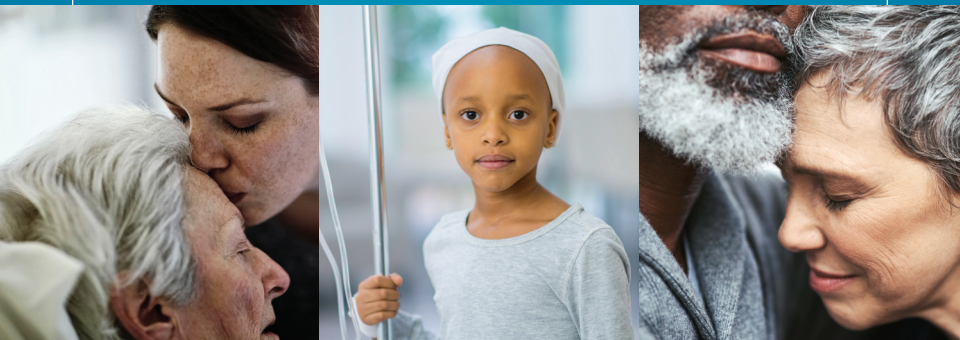




And even if we know that we cannot always guarantee healing or a cure, we can and must always care for the living, without ourselves shortening their life, but also without futilely resisting their death. This approach is reflected in palliative care, which is proving most important in our culture, as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

POPE FRANCIS



**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.