



*World Day of the Sick*

Rembrandt, 1638 Oil on oak panel

*“That parable [of the Good Samaritan] constantly challenges us to think about our own lives. It troubles our dormant or distracted consciences, and warns us about the risk of a complacent faith that is satisfied with the outward observance of the law but incapable of feeling and acting with the same merciful compassion as God. [...] Looking without walking by, halting the frantic pace of our lives, allowing the lives of others, whoever they may be, with their needs and troubles, to touch our heart. That is what makes us neighbors to one another, what generates true fraternity and breaks down walls and barriers.”*

13 July 2025,  
Homily of Pope Leo XIV,  
Castel Gandolfo



In his message for the 34th World Day of the Sick, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that “love needs concrete gestures of closeness, through which we take on the suffering of others, especially those who are ill.” He invites us to seek intercession with an ancient prayer to Mary, Mother of God and our mother:

Sweet Mother, do not part from me.  
Turn not your eyes away from me.  
Walk with me at every moment  
and never leave me alone.  
You who always protect me  
as a true Mother,  
obtain for me the blessing of the Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit.



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How are you allowing the lives of others to touch your heart, so that you might help bear their pain?