

“I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.”

POPE FRANCIS
2022 World Day of the Sick Message



In his 2022 message for World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis reaffirms “the importance of Catholic health care institutions” as “a precious treasure to be protected and preserved” and whose presence has shown the church’s “closeness to the sick and the poor, and to situations overlooked by others.”

He reminds us that Jesus’ invitation to be merciful like the Father has particular significance for health care workers, saying: “I think of all those physicians, nurses,

laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer,” reminding all that their service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of their profession and becomes a mission. “Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails.”

As we remember and pray for all those who are sick in this world, we call to mind our mission as men and women who have committed our varied gifts and talents to helping our brothers and sisters who suffer all forms of illness. Let us not forget the many steps along the way to healing. Let us be gentle with ourselves when we find that we too have become ill.

AMEN