



Pastoral Suggestions for Families and Parishes

Prepared by the CCCB Office for Family and Life

World Day of the Sick, 11 February 2026

“The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another’s pain.”

For the parish

For the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (8 Feb 2026) or on World Day of the Sick (Wed 11 Feb 2026)

Notes for the homily:

Pope Leo XIV, in his Message for the 34th World Day of the Sick 2026, invites us to reflect on the figure of the Good Samaritan. The Holy Father outlines three key points: the gift of encounter, the shared mission of caring for the sick and the primacy of being driven by love for God in encountering ourselves and others.

He writes, “I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, ‘Samaritan’ spirit – **one that is welcoming, courageous, committed and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ.**” He continues, “Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly or afflicted.”

Pope Leo’s complete message and reflection are available at the following link:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html>.

Prayers of the faithful suggestions:

The following petitions may be added to the Universal Prayer at Mass on the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (8 February 2026) and on February 11.

For the sick and those experiencing physical, psychological, and spiritual suffering, may they receive and cultivate your gifts of hope and strength. We pray to the Lord.

For spouses and families accompanying a loved one through illness, may faith, hope and love sustain their encounters. We pray to the Lord.



For caregivers, healthcare professionals, and all who devote time to caring for the sick, that they may be like “angels of hope”. We pray to the Lord.

For our parish community, may our care and concern for the sick be a powerful sign to the world of human dignity and hope. We pray to the Lord.

Other suggestions for the parish:

1. Recognize:

At the end of Mass, recognize and thank all those who reach out to the sick at the parish. This can include the parish’s pastoral care team, health care workers, parishioners caring for sick family members or neighbours, or, as Pope Leo XIV said in his message for World Day of the Sick, anyone who stops along the way “to draw near, heal, support and accompany those in need.”

2. Invite:

At the end of Mass and in parish communications, consider inviting parishioners to join the parish’s pastoral care team (or to start one, if one does not yet exist). Include a contact person for parishioners to reach out to.

3. Act:

If your parish has not yet offered it, the CCCB’s [Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care](#) program can be a valuable resource for parishioners. This program can be offered to:

- Empower and educate parishioners by addressing questions surrounding palliative care, dying, death, suffering, accompaniment, and bereavement in a holistic fashion.
- Present high-quality content that explores how palliative care is understood from a perspective of Catholic moral and pastoral theology, medical expertise and the Compassionate Community model.
- Facilitate meaningful conversations together so that our parishes and families become Compassionate Communities, grounded in the mercy and tenderness of the living Christ.



Prayer for bulletins, groups or families

Option 1 (Excerpt from Pope Leo XIV's Message for World Day of the Sick 2026)

Let us raise our prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, asking her to assist all who suffer and are in need of compassion, consolation and a listening ear. Let us seek her intercession with this ancient prayer, that has been invoked in families for those living with illness and pain:

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.

℟ Amen.

Option 2 (from the CCCB's, *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*, page 152)

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son accepted suffering
to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness.
Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brother/sister.
May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease,
realise that they have been chosen to be saints
and know that they are joined to Christ
in his suffering for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.



Option 3 (from the CCCB's, *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*, page 152)

All-powerful and ever-living God,
the lasting health of all who believe in you,
hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick;
restore their health,
that they may again offer joyful thanks
in your Church.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.

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