



World Day of the Sick February 11, 2015

Message from Most Reverend Albert LeGatt
Archbishop of Saint Boniface

The World Day of the Sick was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1992 with the intention of bringing attention annually to the human reality of sickness and suffering with a call for a response of prayers, solidarity, compassion and care, all finding their source in Jesus Christ, the Divine Healer.

Each year the World Day of the Sick brings us to consider not just the human reality of sickness and suffering, of healing and caring, and even of death in a notional sense but even more to recall those persons actually caught up in these realities at the present moment. We recall members of our families, we recall friends, neighbours, acquaintances, and we recall the people being cared for in our hospitals, our long-term care facilities, our hospices and our palliative care units. This is because the centre of all our efforts in caring for the sick must be the person himself or herself. Our attention must be directed to each person at this particular moment of their journey of life.

In our modern world, and even within our health system, we face the danger of depersonalisation. Too easily, we can focus on procedures and techniques, on the task at hand and the hoped-for outcome. The challenge is to remain focused on the particular person before us, on their physical well-being and also on their emotional, mental and spiritual well-being. It is their particular fears and hopes, struggles and frailties that we are called to receive and to carry with them.

The Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba strives to live out its mission. Faithful to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba creates, sponsors and inspires communities of service characterized by compassion, loving care and solidarity for all, especially where the need is greatest.

It does so to carry on the rich legacy of caring handed on to us by several Congregations of Sisters, all of whom found the source of their commitment and compassion in the message and ministry of Jesus Christ. In the Gospels, Jesus is constantly reaching out to all people,

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especially the sick and suffering, those most in need of God's love. And His approach is always personal, totally centered on the person before him.

Therefore, I wish to take the occasion of this 2015 World Day of the Sick to commend the innumerable ways in which the staff of all our communities of service, people of all faiths and walks of life, provides this person-centered care and compassion in their daily work. Keep up the good work!

† Albert LeGatt
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