



POPE FRANCIS CENTER

for Justice and Charity

February Parish Mailing Healthcare

Homily Hints

“When a sick person is not placed at the center and considered in their dignity, attitudes arise which can even lead to profiteering on other people’s misfortunes. The growing health poverty among the poorest segments of the population is due precisely to the difficulty of access to care . . .” (Pope Francis).

“Permit me to enumerate some of the most important human rights

that are universally recognized: ... the right to sufficient health care”

(Address of St. John Paul II to the 34th General Assembly of the United Nations, 1979).

“The Catholic bishops have long supported adequate

and affordable health care for all. ... We believe genuine health care reform must protect human life and dignity, not threaten them, especially for the most voiceless and vulnerable. ... We believe universal coverage should be truly universal, not deny health care to those in need because of their condition, age, where they come from or when they arrive here. Providing affordable and accessible health care that clearly reflects these fundamental principles

is a public good, moral imperative and urgent national priority” (USCCB).

In the health care sector, “it is important to establish a real distributive justice which, on the basis of objective needs, guarantees adequate care to all.” Moreover, “if it is not to become inhuman, the world of health care cannot disregard the moral rules that must govern it” (Pope Benedict XVI).

“The credibility of a healthcare system is not measured solely by efficiency, but above all by the attention and love given to the person, whose life is always sacred and inviolable” (Pope Francis).

Prayer

God of gentleness and love,

We entrust to your care all those in need of any form of healing,

and ask you to guide and sustain all who offer them healing and hope.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Work of Mercy

[Visit the Sick»](#)

Catholic Charities believes that access to equitable and affordable health care and nutrition is a basic human right.



Catholic Social Teaching

“Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right”

-USCCB, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*





Action

Advocate

[Catholic Charities USA](#)

urges lawmakers to support adequate funding for federal nutrition programs; policies that increase access to affordable food that is fresh and healthy; and measures to strengthen food programs that support children, seniors and pregnant women.

Accompany Volunteers in Catholic Charities' Moms Helping Moms group provide invaluable support to new mothers served by our Family Support & Counseling Program. Volunteers are matched with new mothers as they work through life's challenges, recover from trauma, and adjust to life as a parent. [Volunteer »](#)

Educate Learn more about the Church's position on healthcare – [Here »](#)

Learn about [Catholic Charities' Senior Priest Health Navigator Project.](#)

Donate By addressing a family's mental health and trauma needs, Catholic Charities of Oregon builds healthy and happy families.

[Donate to Mental Health Counseling.»](#)

Prayer Intentions

We pray for the needs of the sick and of all those who suffer – the poor, the infirm, the outcast, the marginalized. May they be recognized, no matter how frail, for their innate and inalienable dignity and mission in life—

we pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who provide care and assist the sick—family members, health workers and volunteers—that they may accompany the infirm and show them the love of God made manifest in human hands and hearts—

we pray to the Lord.

We pray for those in different roles of service and in health care institutions throughout the world, that they will be strengthened in their professionalism and dedication to the sick and the suffering. May they, like Mary, serve to be models of surrender to the will of God—

we pray to the Lord.

For those denied adequate care: that we might stand up for their God-given dignity and assist them in their needs—

we pray to the Lord.



February 11 is the World Day of the Sick