

LOVING CARE OF THE SICK

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

LOVING RELATIONSHIP

Before the needs of our brothers and sisters, Jesus asks us to ... stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them (cf. Lk 10:30-35).

RECOGNIZING VULNERABILITY

The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God.

LIFE'S MEANING

Sickness raises the question of life's meaning, which we bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer.

MORE THAN ONE FACE

Sickness always has more than one face: it has the face of all the sick, but also those who feel ignored, excluded and prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 22).



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

United to Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be merciful like the Father and to love in particular our frail, infirm and suffering brothers and sisters... Fraternal love in Christ generates a community of healing, a community that leaves no one behind, a community that is inclusive and welcoming, especially to those most in need.

SOLIDARITY AND SERVICE

... I wish to mention the importance of fraternal solidarity, which is expressed concretely in service and can take a variety of forms, all directed at supporting our neighbors.

EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIP

If a therapy is to be effective, it must have a relational aspect... Emphasizing this aspect can help doctors, nurses, professionals and volunteers to feel responsible for accompanying patients on a path of healing grounded in a trusting interpersonal relationship ...

SOURCE OF LOVE

Such a relationship with the sick can find an unfailing source of motivation and strength in the charity of Christ ... The mystery of Christ's death and resurrection is the source of the love capable of giving full meaning to the experience of patients and caregivers alike.

COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

... The commandment of love that Jesus left to His disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.

(Source: Message for World Day of the Sick, 12/20/21)

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