

# LOVE AND CARE FOR THE SICK

## Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

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

### “GREAT CONCERN”

We do well to ask ourselves why Jesus showed such great concern for the sick, so much so that He made it paramount in the mission of the apostles, who were sent by the Master to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick (cf. Lk 9:2).

### CONSOLATION AND HOPE

... How important is the presence at our side of witnesses to God’s charity, who, following the example of Jesus, the very mercy of the Father, pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick.

### “LOVE AND COMPETENCE”

Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission.

### “GREAT DIGNITY”

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.



### “A PRECIOUS TREASURE”

... I wish to reaffirm the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions: they are a precious treasure to be protected and preserved; their presence has distinguished the history of the Church, showing her closeness to the sick and poor, and to situations overlooked by others.

### CARING FOR ALL

At a time in which the culture of waste is widespread and life is not always acknowledged as worthy of being welcomed and lived, these structures, like “houses of mercy”, can be exemplary in protecting and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from its beginning until its natural end.

### “CANNOT FAIL”

If the worst discrimination suffered by the poor — including the sick, who are poor in health — is the lack of spiritual attention, we cannot fail to offer the God’s closeness, His blessing and His word, as well as the celebration of the sacraments and the opportunity for a journey of growth and maturation in faith.

### CHRIST CALLS ALL

... Visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all His disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the words of Jesus: “I was sick and you visited Me.” (Mt. 25:26).

(Source: Message for World Day of the Sick, 12/10/21)

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