

12 Hours of Prayer

for
Palliative
Care



May 5–11, 2024

“Palliative care is an expression of the truly human attitude of taking care of one another, especially of those who suffer. It is a testimony that the human person is always precious, even if marked by illness and old age.”

Pope Francis



**The Catholic Women's
League of Canada**

For further information visit

www.cwl.ca

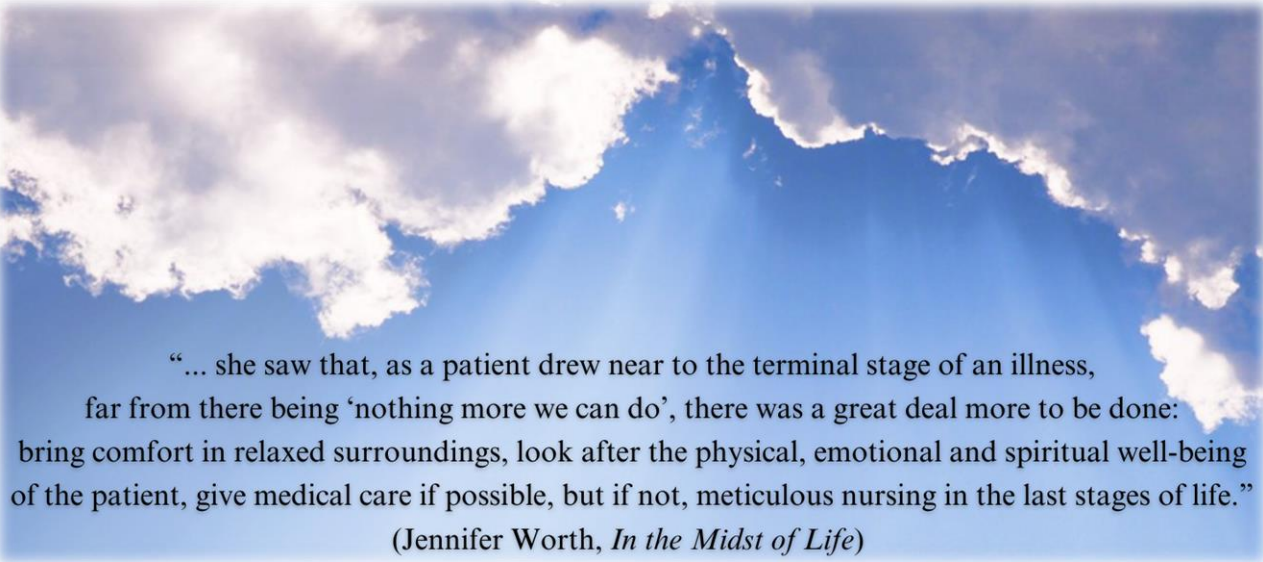
Information and Resources

Contents

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.....	3
A Message from National President Shari Guinta.....	4
Planning	6
“12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”	6
One Hour of Prayer for Palliative Care.....	7
Example One: 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care.....	7
Example Two: How to Structure 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care	8
Example Three: Reflections to Lead the Luminous Mysteries.....	9
Prayers of the Faithful in Times of Serious and Life-Limiting Illness.....	10
Prayer Intentions Suggested for Use During Each Hour of Prayer	12
Quick Facts About Palliative Care.....	13
The Experience of Caregivers.....	13
Frequently Asked Questions	14
What Palliative Care is Not.....	15
Resources	16
Council Discussion Starters	18
Prayers and Reflections.....	19
Prayer for the Protection of Human Life	19
Meditations for the Hour.....	20
A Caregiver's Prayer.....	22
Beatitudes for Caregivers.....	23
Eight Beatitudes for Those Who Minister to the Sick and Elderly.....	23
Prayer Service for Caregivers	24
Reflection for Health Care Workers	26
Petitions for World Day of the Sick.....	27
World Day of the Sick Blessing.....	29
World Hospice and Palliative Care Day	30
Prayer for Those in Palliative Care and Hospice Services	32
Bibliography	33

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

May 5–11, 2024



“... she saw that, as a patient drew near to the terminal stage of an illness, far from there being ‘nothing more we can do’, there was a great deal more to be done: bring comfort in relaxed surroundings, look after the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of the patient, give medical care if possible, but if not, meticulous nursing in the last stages of life.”

(Jennifer Worth, *In the Midst of Life*)

In the Roman Catholic Church, we often hear the phrase “From the moment of conception to natural death.” As Catholics, we uphold the dignity and respect of all human life. God has made us all, men and women, in his image and likeness.

Canadians live in an increasingly secular society. God-given gifts such as uniqueness, individualism and qualities of patience and endurance fall by the wayside, while avoidance, instant gratification and fear of suffering are surfacing as normalcy.

The 12 Hour of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit is again available for 2024. Today, in our ever-changing world, members have strongly indicated a great need for prayer and for a stronger emphasis to be placed on palliative/hospice care. Palliative/hospice care needs to be seen as the sole answer when faced with end-of-life care.

Councils are also invited to request a **mass intention** for palliative care during May 5–11.

Please take time to review the information in this package. It contains a message of support from National President Shari Guinta, prayers, information, resources and links that may be helpful in planning a day of prayer.



Joline Belliveau
National Chairperson of Service

A collaborative effort undertaken by the chairpersons of faith, service and social justice.

A Message from National President Shari Guinta

Palliative care has become a focus and increasing concern for The Catholic Women's League of Canada and the church. With euthanasia becoming a "solution" for end-of-life, rather than *care* for end-of-life persons, the League has taken action over the past few years, particularly with the creation of the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care Kit.

The World Health Organization defines palliative care as "an approach that improves the quality of life of patients (adults and children) and their families who are facing problems associated with life-threatening illness. It prevents and relieves suffering through the early identification, correct assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual."

In Canada, we have seen the pressure from the government to embrace euthanasia and even expand the criteria to include a variety of ages and reasons. Pope Francis is quoted as saying, "Physician-assisted suicide is part of a 'throwaway culture' that offers a 'false compassion' and treats a human person as a problem."

Many resources are available for members, and I encourage councils to incorporate them into their plans. The kit for "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" includes numerous options on how to take part, such as:

- *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care* from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)
- Various viewing options
- Several Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) resources

Also, [Euthanasia Prevention Coalition](#) has resources that councils can use to educate members on life issues.

I invite councils to review the resolutions:

- [2018.03](#) Legislate Designation of Hospice/Palliative Care Services in Facilities to Exclude Medical Assistance in Dying
- [2016.04](#) Amend the *Canada Health Act* to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service.

Protection of life at the beginning and end of life is precious. Life needs members' prayers.



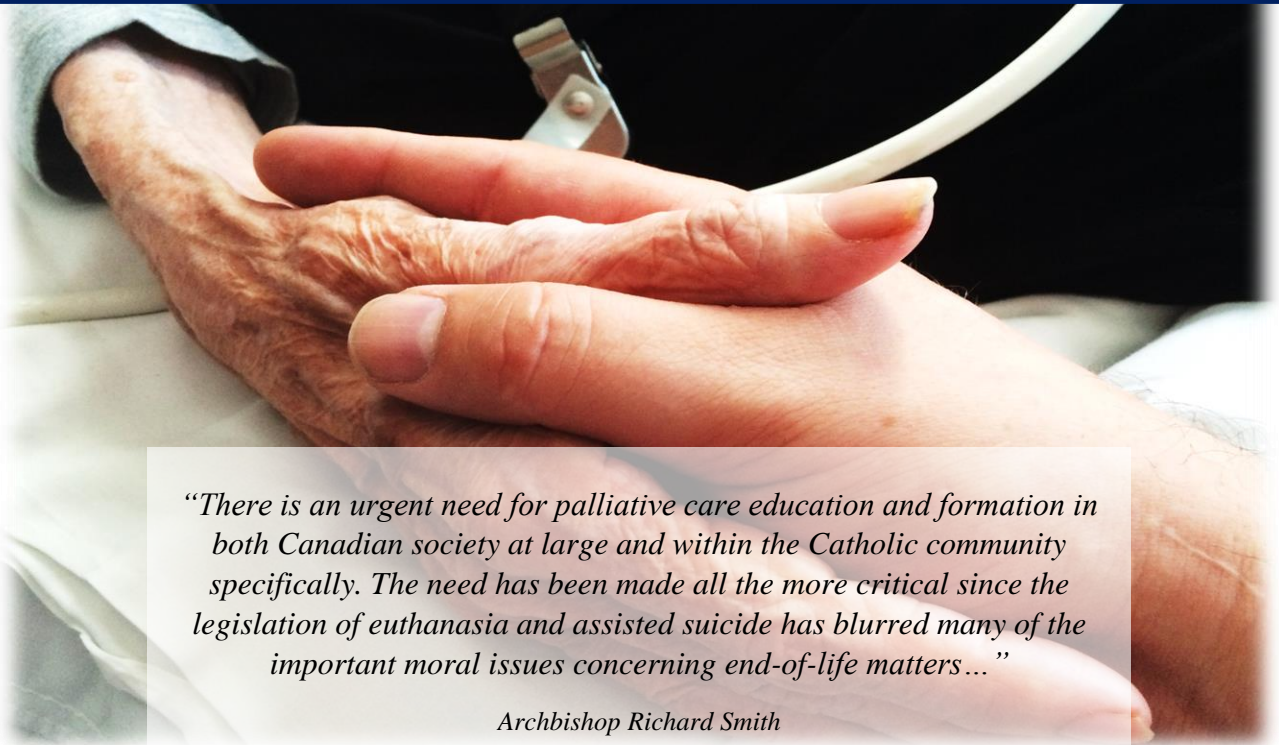
Shari Guinta
National President

On November 15 and 16, 2021, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), through its Joint *Ad Hoc* Committee on Palliative Care, launched a new resource, *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care*. It is a free resource that seeks to offer support and information to parishioners with faith communities to assist them when faced with the illness and death of loved ones through the lens of palliative care, faith and the Compassionate Communities module.

The toolkit is available to all and gives open access to instructional material in both French and English. Download the materials from the [CCCCB website](#). The kit consists of four modules focusing on experience and understanding, discernment and deciding, accompaniment and community and supporting, relating to death, dying and end-of-life decisions.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada



“There is an urgent need for palliative care education and formation in both Canadian society at large and within the Catholic community specifically. The need has been made all the more critical since the legislation of euthanasia and assisted suicide has blurred many of the important moral issues concerning end-of-life matters...”

Archbishop Richard Smith

Pope Francis reminds us, “Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer.”

Planning

“12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”

Use any day during National Hospice Palliative Care Week (May 5–11, 2024)

Suggestions for planning a membership-led event parish council event:

- Plan a “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” event in concert with National Hospice Palliative Care Week (May 5–11, 2024).
- Choose one day during this week to participate in the “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care” service.
- Ask members/parishioners, on the designated day, to pray for a total of one hour (or break up into segments of 10, 15, 20 or 30 minutes) for palliative care.
- Include all members/parishioners of the council/parish and invite them to commit to a particular time to pray for palliative care.
- Provide resource materials to members to offer additional information for the one hour of prayer.
- When you meet in person, discuss ways the council can assist in this important service.
- If members are active on social media, encourage them to share news of how they participated in the #12hoursofprayer.

Resources for viewing by councils or individuals:

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, [*Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care.*](#)

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, videos:

Euthanasia Deception
Fatal Flaws

Government of Canada, [Palliative Care Videos \(described videos\)](#)

One Hour of Prayer for Palliative Care

“Let us not be afraid to be humble, small, helpless to prove our love for God. The cup of water you give to the sick, the way you lift a dying man, the way you give medicine to a leper, the way you feed a baby, the way in which you teach an ignorant child, the joy with which you smile at your own at home—all this is God’s love in the world today.”

Mother Teresa

Example One: 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

Suggestion for planning for a membership-led event: Use signup sheets for members to each pray for 15-20 minutes (or more) to fill 12 hours.

Hour 1: Our Lady of Prompt Succour and Our Lady of Compassion

Hour 2: Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Conquest

Hour 3: Our Lady of Good Health and Our Lady of Faith

Hour 4: Our Lady of Good Counsel and Our Lady of Good News

Hour 5: Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Great Power

Hour 6: Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guidance

Hour 7: Our Lady of Life and Our Lady of Miracles

Hour 8: Queenship of Mary and Star of the Sea

Hour 9: The Most Holy Name of Mary and Our Lady of Peace

Hour 10: Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Power

Hour 11: Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Last Agony

Hour 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Example Two: How to Structure 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care

- Hour 1 *A Caregiver's Prayer* ([page 22](#))
- Hour 2 *Beatitudes for Caregivers* ([page 23](#))
- Hour 3 *Eight Beatitudes for Those who Minister to the Sick and Elderly* ([page 23](#))
- Hour 4 Meditations for the Hour ([page 20](#))
- Hour 5 World Day of the Sick Quote, Reflection and Blessing ([page 27](#))
- Hour 6 *Prayer for Those in Palliative Care and Hospice Services* ([page 32](#))
- Hour 7 Prayer Intentions ([page 12](#))
- Hour 8 *Prayer Service for Caregivers* ([page 24](#))
- Hour 9 Prayer to use with hospice patients ([page 19](#))
- Hour 10 Scripture Reading of the Day
- Hour 11 Reflection for Health Care Workers ([page 26](#))
- Hour 12 World Hospice and Palliative Care Day Prayer Service ([page 30](#))

Example Three: Reflections to Lead the Luminous Mysteries

During the recitation of the rosary, we place our petition for increased palliative care and hospice care, and for the renewed protection of the rights of conscience for individuals and faith-based institutions, in Our Blessed Mother's hands, to present to her Son. Jesus has promised that he would not deny anything that his Mother asks of him.

1. Baptism of the Lord

We pray today for those in palliative care. That they may feel the love and compassion that their faith can bring. We pray that they feel God's love as they did on the day of their baptism.
Spiritual Fruit: Gratitude for the gift of faith; God will hear our prayers for palliative care.

2. The Wedding of Cana

We pray today for the children and spouses of those in palliative care. That they may find solace in prayer, and in the love of God the Father during this time of their lives. We pray that they find the support they need, so that they may bring comfort to those whom they love.
Spiritual Fruit: Fidelity; for continued commitment to the sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom

We pray today for all health care professionals. That they may be able to care for their patients in palliative care with courage and compassion. We pray that they are able to continue their important work without the fear of having to go against their beliefs regarding the sanctity of life.
Spiritual Fruit: Desire for holiness; moving us to action in support of access to palliative care and protection of rights of conscience for individuals and faith-based institutions.

4. The Transfiguration

We pray today for the families and friends who accompany those walking through their last days. That they find the support they need as their loved ones take their final walk towards the Lord. We pray that they have the courage to accompany those whom they hold dear.
Spiritual Fruit: Spiritual courage; to support the sanctity of life in spite of contrary public opinion.

5. The Institution of the Eucharist

We pray today for those in palliative care. That they might wrap themselves in God's love and offer themselves up to him as God gives himself to us in the Eucharist. We pray that comfort is found in the Lord.
Spiritual Fruit: Love of our Eucharistic Lord; providing strength to continue to speak for the vulnerable facing end of life.

Prayers of the Faithful in Times of Serious and Life-Limiting Illness

Response: Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

For our Holy Father, Francis, and all those in positions of church leadership: may they continue to guide and support the Catholic faithful regarding euthanasia and palliative care consistent with integrity of the Catholic faith and moral doctrine in the face of rising societal challenges.

For government leaders and health care administrators: they may work to enact legislation and policies that uphold the sanctity of human life and promote compassionate end of life care options compatible with the fundamental ethical and social teachings of our Church.

For all those in research and the health professions and those learning their professions: may they be guided by wisdom and the principles of love, respect for life and ethical practice in their deliberations and vision for the good of all.

For home health aides, hospice nurses and other health care workers: may they be supported in their patience and love as they enter the intimate spaces in the homes of the sick, suffering and dying. may they be a light to others and a testament to the Word as they live their faith and care for their patients.

For families caring for loved ones through illness, loneliness, and old age: may they find strength in their faith and assurance of God's presence during times of fatigue and being overwhelmed.

For volunteers who accompany the sick and dying: may they be valued and cherished in care settings as they listen and provide steady companionship, a reminder of God to those who need it most. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the ill at home and in hospital, especially those receiving a diagnosis of a serious or life-threatening illness: may they feel the healing power of Christ and find comfort, hope and courage in their faith and the presence of their loved ones and caregivers. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those experiencing physical pain or suffering and are considering euthanasia as an option: may they seek to alleviate suffering through palliative care and holistic support of the medical community and be granted the strength, relief and comfort of God's healing presence.

For those who do not have adequate access to healthcare: may we respond to their needs with love and compassion and seek creative solutions to bring healing to all.

For the vulnerable and marginalized in society, including those with mental and physical illness: may they always be treated with dignity and respect as children of God. We pray to the Lord: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the dying and those who wait with them: may they find strength and peace in the knowledge of God's love for them, and may they be surrounded by the support and prayers of their community. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

For society as a whole: may we foster a culture of life and dignity for all, recognizing the inherent worth and value of every human being, especially in times of vulnerability and suffering.

Adapted from:

"General Intercessions for Sunday – Our Lady Queen of Martyrs." www.ourladyqueenofmartyrs.org/general-intercessions-for-sunday.

Prayers of the Faithful in Times of Illness | Diocese of Jefferson City. 28 Feb. 2020, www.diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/02/28/prayers-of-the-faithful-in-times-of-illness/.

"Petitions for World Day of the Sick." www.chausa.org, 25 Apr. 2024, <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/petitions-for-world-day-of-the-sick>.

World Day of the Sick. 2021, www.rcdos.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Blessing-and-Prayers-of-the-Faithful-World-Day-of-the-Sick.pdf.

Prayer Intentions Suggested for Use During Each Hour of Prayer

For our community of faith and each of us in our personal responsibilities: that by visiting the ill and the suffering, and by encouraging those who live with disabilities or mental illness, we witness to the love of God and the beauty of human solidarity.

Let us pray.

For those who see palliative care as an unnecessary part of suffering rather than an act of compassion: that the light of the gospel transforms their vision, allowing them to see the sacredness of all life from its beginning to its natural end.

Let us pray.

For legislators and judges whose decisions touch issues of life and death: that the Holy Spirit enlighten their minds and consciences by giving them the gift of discernment.

Let us pray.

For those who work in the media: that they understand the full scope of the issues surrounding end of life care, and that the Holy Spirit enlighten their minds and consciences.

Let us pray.

For those who impact the development of Canadian society and culture: that they open their hearts to the message of Christ and contribute to the development of a true culture of life.

Let us pray.

For health care providers who administer care to the dying and the severely ill: that they promote and provide care treatments which respect human dignity and are an expression of hope and love.

Let us pray.

For medical students: that, during the course of their formation, they meet courageous mentors who have the wisdom to educate and guide their consciences in truth.

Let us pray.

For patients and their families who despair at the prospect of suffering and death: that the Holy Spirit open the eyes of their hearts to the meaning of suffering deeply united to that of Christ on the Cross.

Let us pray.

For health workers and for all those who devote themselves to caring for the sick and the dying: that Christ strengthen their energy and fill them with love as they strive to love with his heart.

Let us pray.

Source: Adapted from "Life-Giving Love" A National Campaign for Palliative and Home Care: Against Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide from the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF)

Quick Facts About Palliative Care

- In 2021–2022, 58% of Canadians who died received palliative care. Almost all Canadians who died could have received palliative care.
- Most palliative care services are received in the last month of life when individuals are already receiving end-of-life care.
- In 2021–2022, 61% of Canadians who died had palliative care in the hospital (58% at home) in their last year of life. Seventy-six per cent had indicated they wanted to die at home with palliative care, while only 13% actually did.
- Almost 25% of persons receiving palliative home care were transferred to the hospital at the very end of life. Hospices offer a comforting and dignified alternative to dying in a hospital. The current recommendations are seven hospice beds per 100,000 people; Canada has 3.97 beds per 100,000.
- Persons receiving palliative care in rural areas (36%) are significantly more likely to be hospitalized for palliative care than those in urban areas (29%). They are also more likely to die in hospitals.
- Only 34% of long-term care home residents identified as having less than six months to live and who could benefit from palliative care received palliative care. Of the transfers of long-term care residents to hospitals, 28% were to receive palliative care.
- There are 13 urban hospitals across Canada providing pediatric palliative care. No programs are listed in any of the territories.
- Significant barriers to talking about death and dying and confusion about the benefits of palliative care throughout an incurable illness and not just at the end of life remain.

There is still an absence of national palliative care standards despite the 2017 national “Framework on Palliative Care in Canada” and the Health Canada framework and action plan.

The Experience of Caregivers

- More than 8 million family members and friends in Canada provide care in the home to someone who is seriously ill or at the end of life.
- Canadian families frequently shoulder 25% of the total cost of palliative care due to costs associated with nursing and personal care services.
- Caregivers express concern about access to care and lack of information about services and resources.
- Rural areas need improvements in respite care and in-home support for family caregivers.
- Caregivers are often unclear about when a person should begin palliative care, what will change when they do, and the difference between palliative and end-of-life care.
- Most caregivers feel unprepared and overwhelmed at some point, with about one in three reporting distress. People often come to emergency departments because their caregivers don't have the required support to provide the palliative care they need at home.
- Accessing grief support for caregivers can be difficult due to where they live, time and cost.

Access to Palliative Care in Canada, 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care aims to improve a person's quality of life by providing comfort and symptom management for those experiencing a serious, incurable or life-limiting illness such as congestive heart failure, dementia and cancer. Depending on the illness, treatments aimed at a cure may still continue. Palliative care services are not provided based on the time a person has left to live but may be provided for months to years before death occurs.

A palliative approach to care addresses the individual's and family's psychological, practical, social, loss/grief, spiritual and physical needs like pain and symptom management that are in line with their goals of care. It helps prepare for the eventual closure of life while actively treating all anticipated or arising issues, including emergencies. Palliative care must start early, at diagnosis or when the illness begins to progress. Research supports that those who receive early palliative care support have improved quality of life, reduced anxiety, improved pain and symptom management and often live longer.

Children and youth experience the same clinical, psychological, ethical and spiritual problems that severe, irreversible disease and death entail as adults. Palliative care for children and youth is closely related to adult palliative care—the active total care of the child's body, mind and spirit. Its purpose is to improve young patients' and their families' quality of life.

What is Hospice Care?

Hospice care is for persons requiring end-of-life care in the final months, weeks or days of their life. Medical care no longer aims to treat or cure an illness. Other medical care will continue as long as it is helpful. Hospice care provides various specific services, supports, and care settings based on the individual's needs and plan for end-of-life care. Residential hospices create a home-like environment for individuals at the end of their lives who need access to 24-hour care.

What is End-of-Life Care (EOL)?

EOL care is provided during the final phase of life when a person has only hours, days or weeks to live. It is often misunderstood as palliative care. However, like palliative care, EOL care addresses an individual's and family's psychological, practical, social, loss/grief, spiritual and physical needs, including symptom management. Medical care is always provided following a person's end-of-life care plan.

As a person advances towards death, there is usually a decline in their basic bodily function. They may require increased or total assistance with personal care, take only minimal sips and bites of food and may sleep most of the day and night. They may be confused and sometimes difficult to wake up. Recognizing the signs of impending death aids in meeting a person's end-of-life goals, such as care preferences and preferred place of death, as well as avoiding treatments that are not helpful to the person and family and healthcare giver conflicts.



What Palliative Care is Not...

It has become crucial that Canadians understand the benefits of palliative care following the passage of medical assistance in dying (MAiD) legislation.

There is a need to overcome the label of a “death-denying society” and support conversations regarding preferences for seriously ill patients and their loved ones (Palliative Care Matters, CIHI 2023).

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) on Palliative Care

“Despite its legalization in Canada and the support it has received among some segments of the population, the Catholic Church, drawing on the deepest sources of its tradition, remains strongly opposed to euthanasia and assisted suicide. While euthanasia and assisted suicide are also referred to as Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), these are not to be admitted within the definition and practice of palliative care. Likewise, the World Health Organization (WHO) and many secular providers of palliative care in Canada exclude euthanasia and assisted suicide from the definition of palliative care. Palliative care is a means of accompanying someone who is extremely vulnerable and significantly (if not entirely) dependent on others for care. It can be seen as an expression of human solidarity, for we all face moments of vulnerability and dependency in varying degrees from birth to natural death. Finally, while palliative care can be (and is) offered by trained practitioners in healthcare facilities, it can be (and often is) delivered by patient-identified caregivers in several settings, including the home” (CCCB).

Be a voice of advocacy for all Canadians to be able to access quality palliative and hospice care services and protected from the harm connected with medical assistance in dying.

Encourage members to download the palliative care (#180) and medical assistance in dying postcards (#185 [A](#), [B](#), [C](#), [D](#), [E](#)) found in the Council Supplies section of the national website and send them to the prime minister and their member of parliament.

Resources

[Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

Articles 2276-2279 contain the Catholic Church's position on suicide and euthanasia. Article 2276 states that people whose lives are weakened or diminished should be treated with special respect, and that people who are sick or handicapped should be helped to lead normal lives. Article 2277 states that direct euthanasia is morally unacceptable and is the act of purposefully ending the lives of people who are sick, disabled or dying.

[Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops \(CCCCB\) Resources for Palliative Care](#)

Under the section, Faith and Moral Issues: Suffering and End of Life, the CCCC website has public statements, resources and pastoral letters to provide guidance and support to the Catholic faithful in Canada regarding euthanasia and palliative care. These are intended to teach, clarify and therefore maintain, in communion with the successor of Peter, the integrity of faith and moral doctrine in the face of rising challenges and contrary ideologies.

[League Position Paper on Euthanasia and Medical Assistance in Dying \(2023\)](#)

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, respects human life from conception to natural death. Any deliberate killing of another human being by euthanasia/MAiD is gravely wrong, even when done out of compassion when someone is dying or there is concern about their quality of life. The complete position and supporting information and resources can be found at this link:

[Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association \(CHPCA\)](#)

The CHPCA is the national voice for hospice palliative care in Canada. Advancing and advocating for quality end-of-life/hospice palliative care, its work includes public policy, public education and awareness. Established in 1991, the vision of the CHPCA is, "that all Canadians have access to quality end-of-life care."

CHPCA's [Hospice Palliative Care Fact Sheet](#), updated in August 2017, provides information on access, demand, funding, an integrated palliative approach to care, raising awareness and many other topics. This fact sheet is one of the most informative documents you can find on this topic, gives up-to-date information, and has an in-depth section on the state of home care and the role of family and informal caregivers.

The CHPCA [Marketplace](#) offers a wide variety of brochures, books and other media (in French and English) that deal with all aspects of palliative care.

Access the following free downloads on the CHPCA [website](#).

- Compassionate Community Startup Toolkit
- Fact Sheet: Hospice Palliative Care in Canada
- *Guiding Family Caregivers of People at the End of Life*
- Life and Death Matters—Brochure Educational Resources—Essentials in Hospice Palliative Care
- Palliative Care: A Fact Sheet for Seniors

- *Pediatric Hospice Palliative Care Guiding Principles and Norms of Practice*
- *The Pan-Canadian Gold Standard for Palliative Home Care*

[Canadian Virtual Hospice \(CVH\)](#)

CVH provides support and personalized information about palliative and end-of-life care to patients, family members, health-care providers, researchers and educators through a web-based platform. It is a reputable source for finding evidence-based information and support, whenever it is needed, wherever in Canada one may live.

CHV provides an e-health feature called “Ask a Professional.” Through it, Canadians have direct access to a team of expert health specialists who can help them sort through issues related to death and dying. The information and support available helps make sense in times of confusion, offers compassion in times of isolation, and reassurance in times of anxiety.

In “Programs and Services,” CVH has gathered links to palliative care associations in each province and territory. Just click on the interactive map to find a list of provincial palliative care associations, regional palliative care programs, local palliative care programs and services, home care programs, bereavement services and more. Double click any of these to find detailed information for that province or territory.

Under “Books, Links and More,” CVH lists resources on many topics. “Asked and Answered” and “Most Popular Articles” also contain valuable information.

Another item of particular interest is “10 Myths about Palliative Care” found under the “Topics” tab. It further directs users to further information related to each myth.

Additional Resources

- [Hospice and Palliative Care Reflection Card](#)
- [Palliative Care Information Card](#)
- [Hospice and Palliative Care Difference Card](#)
- [Reflection on Palliative Care Video](#) (YouTube)

“If a person feels loved, then the shadow of euthanasia disappears.”

Pope Francis

Council Discussion Starters

Your parish council may wish to hold a discussion about hospice palliative care. There can be feelings of apprehension and misunderstandings related to this topic, so sensitivity is a key component.

You may wish to start by explaining what “palliative care” means. Use the definitions and resources provided above or a summary such as the one that follows. Then, offer some discussion questions for members to respond to if they feel comfortable or to simply reflect upon.

Palliative care is a special kind of health care for individuals and families who are living with a life-limiting illness that is usually at an advanced stage. The goal of palliative care is to provide comfort and dignity for the person living with the illness as well as the best quality of life for both this person and his or her family. A “family” is whoever the person says his or her family is. It may include relatives, partners and friends.

An important objective of palliative care is the relief of pain and other symptoms. Palliative care meets not only physical needs but also psychological, social, cultural, emotional and spiritual needs of each person and family. Palliative care may be the main focus when a cure for the illness is no longer possible. Palliative care services help people in later life who are ill to live out their remaining time in comfort and dignity.

Palliative care services are helpful not only when a person is approaching death but also during the earlier stages of an illness. Palliative care may be combined with other treatments to reduce or cure the illness, such as chemotherapy. Families also benefit from support when their loved one is dying and after his or her death.

Questions to engage others to share their experiences:

- Would you care to share or reflect upon a time when you have been involved in providing support to someone in palliative care or approaching death? What support helped you through this time? What else could have helped you?
- How was your loved one's faith strengthened during his or her journey toward death? How was your own? Or those around you?
- What was hardest for you in sharing your loved one's journey? Where were you able to experience joy in this journey?
- Are there ways that our council could support hospice palliative care initiatives in our community?
- Are there ways that our council or individual members could support those in our community who are caregivers to individuals in hospice palliative care? Or caregivers to those approaching death in their own homes?

Prayers and Reflections

The following is a typical prayer Chaplain Barry Pennington of Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care uses with many hospice patients:

“God, thank you for being with us right now. We confess that we don't understand why things happen the way they do. We don't understand why illness comes into our lives, but we do know that you walk every path of life with us. Remind Joe that you are walking with him right now. Remind Joe that you love him, no matter what he is going through. I also pray for Joe's family. Give them your strength as they care for Joe. God, we thank you that you never leave us, that you never forsake us, but you love us. We trust you, and pray this in your name. Amen.”

“The prayer has some key thoughts [he] hopes [his] hospice patients hear:

1. God is always present with us, even when we may not be experiencing that presence.
2. As a chaplain, I don't pretend to have the answers. I join with my patient in asking the 'whys.'
3. God is with my hospice patient, especially in suffering.
4. Caregivers also experience God's presence in caring for their loved one.
5. I affirm my personal trust in God even when none of us have the answers.”

Barry Pennington, DMin, BCC

Copyright © 2017 Crossroads Hospice & Palliative Care

“Two life moments are unparalleled in an awakening a sense of awe: beholding a birth, and standing in a presence of death. The mystery of death is illuminated by analogy to birth... Whether we hold a newborn infant or touch the hand of a person near death, a fundamentally similar awareness emerges: life is exquisitely valuable. Language stretches to express it. Life belongs in a wholly different genre of value than measurable, material, temporal goods” (Thomas Aquinas).

Prayer for the Protection of Human Life

Heavenly Father,
Lord and Maker of all that is good,
fill our hearts with joy before the wonders of Your creation.
Open our eyes to the presence of Your beloved Son Jesus|
in all those we encounter and especially in the weakest and most vulnerable among us.
Where we see life threatened, at its beginning or at its end,
or by poverty and deprivation, inspire us with love and mercy,
so that, empowered by Your Holy Spirit,
we may work together to defend human dignity.
Help us to build a culture of life:
a culture in which each and every person is loved and valued as Your child,
from conception to natural death, *and in every circumstance of life.*
Amen.
Mary, Mother of the living, pray for us!

(COLF)

Meditations for the Hour

You may wish to begin each of the 12 hours of prayer with the following brief meditations. Choose the meditation for your designated hour of prayer.

1st hour: We pray for the children who watch a family member or friend struggle with their illness. That we will reach out and comfort them with words and actions of love. We ask our Father to lift their spirit in knowing that true happiness will come for those who suffer when they return to their Creator. (Thank you, New Brunswick)

2nd hour: We pray for those who are facing the end of their earthly life and for those who care for them. In *Food for the Journey*, Sr. Juliana Casey, IHM, addresses the grace and courage they share. "Many dying persons are a source of wisdom and grace. Their own courage increases ours. Their dignity speaks radiantly of the image of God that we all are. ... Courage, finally, is grace. Given to us in God's Spirit, anchored in belief in the Resurrection, courage sustains us before what will remain mystery until the end of time." (Thank you, Alberta Mackenzie)

3rd hour: Good and gracious God, who gave Jesus Christ the power to heal the sick, comfort the dying, sooth the suffering and give rest to the weary. In your mercy, grant all caregivers the patience, love and compassion to provide strength and contentment for those approaching their final journey on earth. The day-to-day challenges that a caregiver is faced with are many. Let their eyes be open to all opportunities that surround them. Let them use them to interact and stimulate those in their care. Let them know that spending time with the dying is a blessing and a privilege, not a burden. Keep watch O Lord over all who watch, work and weep. Let your healing power of love be the instrument that makes the earthly transition possible, prayerful and peaceful. May you know that as you care for others, God cares about you and loves you tenderly. Amen. (Thank you, Newfoundland and Labrador)

4th hour: We pray for all families journeying with their loved ones through terminal illness, that the support and compassion shown to them in palliative care facilities will sustain them in their grief and sorrow of loss. That hope will abide in them of God's loving grace.

5th hour: Touching is one of our basic human senses. We touch others and others touch us in different ways. We touch others physically by putting our arms around their shoulders, hugging them or kissing them. Others touch us by the look in their eyes, by the words they speak, by the acts of charity that they do for us. Touching is a beautiful means of communication. By our touch we can communicate comfort and support. We can communicate love and affection. We can communicate a sense of unity. When the woman with the haemorrhage touched Jesus' cloak she was healed. We pray for all those whose loving touch comforts those with terminal illness. (Thank you, B.C. & Yukon)

6th hour: Heavenly Father, we come to you to help us understand the trials and tribulations that others are experiencing at this time with illnesses. Give us the wisdom to understand their pain and suffering. Keep us in your loving embrace and as we share that embrace with those in pain, may we experience your strength and mercy as they also experience it. O Father, let them find happiness

and fulfillment in their lives so that they may rejoice when they come into your presence. (Thank you, Prince Edward Island)

7th hour: We pray for those who fear the process of terminal illness. May they find in the caregivers in palliative/hospice facilities a relief of the anxiety through the knowledge and support, both physical and spiritual, given them by the staff.

8th hour: We pray for the children who will accompany their parent through the process of terminal illness. May they be sustained in their grief by the support of family, friends and medical and spiritual personnel they encounter in the palliative care process.

9th hour: We pray for all palliative care/hospice facilities that they may receive the funding needed to adequately provide the necessary care of those journeying through terminal illnesses.

10th hour: We pray for all families, physicians, health care providers and those involved in the palliative care programs. Send forth your Spirit to all involved in the discussions and decision-making process of those who cannot speak for themselves. We pray to the Lord.

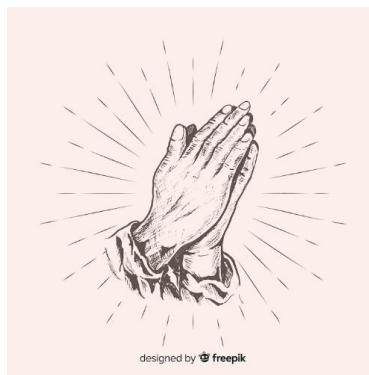
For all doctors counselling patients. May they always be aware of the patient's feelings as well as the disease. We pray to the Lord.

For all caregivers, affirm their trust in the Lord. Rid them of all anxiety so that they can be attentive to the needs of their loved ones. We pray to the Lord.

May we remain united in faith, always available and obedient to carry out your work devoting ourselves to the needs of others. We pray to the Lord. (Thank you Nova Scotia)

11th hour: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion—inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is love and mercy itself. (Thank you, Ontario)

12th hour: Thank you, Lord, for your presence with us this day. As we depart from this space soon, we ask you to bless us throughout the remainder of the day and guide us safely home. Bless all who walk with someone who suffers. May your Spirit guide them in their endeavours. We ask this in the name of Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen. (Thank you, B.C. & Yukon)



A Caregiver's Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me better understand and believe I can do what you ask me to do.

Forgive me for the times, even now, when I question your judgment.

As I go about the many daily tasks of caregiving, give me energy.

As I watch my loved one oh-so-slowly walk across the room, give me strength.

As I answer his/her repeated question just one more time, give me patience.

As I look for solutions to whatever is the most recent concern, give me wisdom.

As I reminisce with him/her about the "good old days," give me a moment of laughter.

As I get to know my loved one in a new way, seeing both his or her strength and frailty, give me joy.

As I sit beside my loved one's bed waiting for his or her pain medication to take effect, give me comfort.

Lighten my burden, answer my prayer, and give me the strength to do what so often seems impossible. Give me a quiet place to rest when I need it and a quieting of my anxieties when I'm there.

Change my attitude from a tired, frustrated and angry caregiver to the loving and compassionate one I want to be.

Remain my constant companion as I face the challenges of caregiving, and when my job is through and it's time for me to let go, help me remember that he or she is leaving my loving arms to enter your eternal embrace. Amen.

Monica Dodds

catholicherald.com/stories/The-beatitudes-and-a-prayer-for-caregivers, 26621



Beatitudes for Caregivers

(Left side) Blessed are those who sleep poorly because they're worried about their loved one or because their loved one wakes in the middle of the night and needs help, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Right side) Blessed are those who mourn because their loved one, though still alive, is slipping away because of dementia, for they will be comforted.

(L) Blessed are the meek who force themselves to speak up and speak out to make sure their loved one receives the help he or she needs, for they will inherit the land.

(R) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for answers to why this is happening to their loved one and how much longer it will go on, for they will be satisfied.

(L) Blessed are those who show mercy, kindness and compassion to their loved one, for they will be shown mercy, kindness and compassion.

(R) Blessed are those who keep clean a loved one who is physically or mentally unable to keep himself or herself clean, for they will see God.

(L) Blessed are those who help their loved one find moments of peace, for they will be called children of God.

(R) Blessed are those who are misunderstood, not appreciated and taken for granted in their role as caregiver, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(L) Blessed are those whose caregiving efforts are unjustly criticized—or who are falsely accused of not caring about others—because of your love for your care-receiver and your love for God, who has asked you to help his beloved son or daughter.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Monica Dodds, catholicerald.com/stories/The-beatitudes-and-a-prayer-for-caregivers, 26621

Eight Beatitudes for Those Who Minister to the Sick and Elderly

Blessed are you who listen to your patients, especially those with constant complaints, for you possess the ears of Christ.

Blessed are you who see the hurts of your patients, especially those overlooked by others, for you possess the eyes of Christ.

Blessed are you who speak kindly to your patients, especially those plagued by fear or anger, for you possess the mouth of Christ.

Blessed are you who touch your patients gently, especially those bruised by insensitivity, for you possess the hands of Christ.

Blessed are you who think prayerfully of your patients, especially those alone and discouraged, for you possess the mind of Christ.

Blessed are you who show love to your patients, especially those with chronic illness, for you possess the heart of Christ.

Blessed are you who walk tirelessly to your patients, especially those with repeated calls, for you possess the feet of Christ.

Blessed are you who persevere in your ministry, especially with compassion to all patients, for you possess the healing presence of Christ, and yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Sr. Marie Roccapriore MPF, Caring for the Sick and Elderly; A Parish Guide

Prayer Service for Caregivers

Use with prayer service as a personal reflection as you spend your time in prayer.

Opening Prayer:

O Lord our God, you are the source of peace. Inspire the women of the League to live in peace by acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with you, our God (Micah 6:8). We pray that you enlighten the eyes of our minds, so that we may see what hope your call holds for us (Eph 1:18). May we be firm in the hope we profess (Heb 10:23) and always ready to give the reason for the hope we have (1 Ptr 3:15).

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 131

Response: In you Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. **R**

But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me. **R**

O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and for evermore. **R**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **R**

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Antiphonal Psalm

Antiphon: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love (Ps 33).

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield (Ps 33).

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere (Ps 84:10).

Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you (Ps 84:12).

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble (Ps 9:9).

Those who know your name put their trust in you (Ps 9:10).

Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths (Ps 25:4).

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation (Ps 25:5).

Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings (Ps 28:6).

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts (Ps 28:7).

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who hope in his steadfast love (Ps 33:18).

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you (Ps 33:22).

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him (Ps 62:5).

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken (Ps 62:6).

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul (Ps 138:3).

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; his steadfast love endures for ever (Ps 138:8).

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, it is now, and will be forever.

Antiphon: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Reading: Romans 15:13 21

Reflection for Health Care Workers

Jesus carried... (people's) dis-ease. He bore the burden of responsibility for their lack of comfort and walked with them towards wholeness. He didn't shun the helpless or belittle the frail. He reached deep into his own wellness and offered them healing. His was the behavior of the servant, a suffering servant. Jesus was willing to endure pain so others could live with less pain... he was willing to suffer ultimate rejection, even rejection from his own religious tradition, so others could have his word.

Service costs. The servant suffers. There is the preoccupying agony of caring till it hurts. The sacrifice of time. The struggle to talk when every word aches. And no guarantees. Suffering servanthood is only for those who take following seriously. It is for those who can carry others because they have carried themselves first.

Fran Feder, <https://www.marquette.edu/faith/prayers-reflection-workers.php>

“To those of you who experience illness, whether temporary or chronic, I would say this: Do not be ashamed of your longing for closeness and tenderness! Do not conceal it, and never think that you are a burden on others. The condition of the sick urges all of us to step back from the hectic pace of our lives in order to rediscover ourselves.”

Pope Francis, 32nd World Day of the Sick

Petitions for World Day of the Sick

Healing to all the sick in our hospitals, nursing homes, rehab or care facilities, and in their homes.

Comfort to those who have recently been diagnosed with a grave disease or who are undergoing treatments that make them ill.

Peace to the depressed, emotionally distraught and to those with mental illnesses whose minds play tricks on them and who lose their grip on reality.

Tranquility to those with dementia who are forgetting their loved ones and their precious memories.

Patience to those with chronic or debilitating diseases that rob them of energy, vigor, strength, mobility and hope for their futures.

Joy to children whose illnesses have limited their ability to be with their friends and families and play as children should.

Perseverance to our wounded warriors suffering physically or mentally from the injuries they have incurred or sights they have seen in war.

Release to those with addictions to food, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, pornography, sex and other addictions that rob the dignity of the human spirit and lead to illness, death and crime.

Strength to our employees who are suffering from illnesses that make coming to work or doing their work difficult.

For all of the sick in mind, body and soul, we pray...

R. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

For the suffering, send a spirit of...

Consolation to those who grieve the death of a loved one, a dream or vision of the future.

Forgiveness for broken relationships with spouses, children, parents, friends, coworkers, employers.

Resourcefulness to those lacking the basic necessities of life due to unemployment, underemployment, the unequal distribution of the world's goods and natural disasters in our own country and around the world.

Bravery to those who suffer from man's inhumanity to man—human trafficking, tyranny, genocide, the ravages of war.

Steadfastness to the those persecuted for their faith and their standing up for righteousness and to those who experience prejudice because of race, ethnicity, gender or any other cause.

Purpose to those who have lost hope and are contemplating or have attempted suicide.

For those who suffer in ways in which we cannot imagine or know, we pray...

R. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy. For the dying, send a spirit of ...

Consolation to those who face death suddenly through a catastrophic health crisis, a fatal accident or violent crime.

Courage to people who have just received a diagnosis of a terminal condition.

Forgiveness where there is estrangement.

Calm to the dying who are restless or agitated.

Acceptance for those whose pain we cannot relieve.

For all the dying and those who wait with them, we pray...

R. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

For caregivers, send a spirit of...

Perseverance to caregivers who are tired or overwhelmed.

Compassion when we minister with patients who are difficult to get along with.

Love when those we care for are verbally or physically abusive toward us.

Empathy for the front line caregivers in hospitals, nursing homes and other institutional settings.

Wisdom to help us maintain appropriate professional boundaries.

Patience for those who care for family members in a home setting.

Service for home health aides, hospice nurses and other professional health care workers who enter into the intimate spaces in the homes of the sick, suffering and dying.

For all of us as we care for ourselves, our families and our patients and for all caregivers, we pray...

R. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

Source: <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/petitions-for-world-day-of-the-sick>

World Day of the Sick Blessing

A prayer for all those who work in Catholic health care on the World Day of the Sick.

Loving God, you created us with the capacity to heal,
to restore and to offer peace through our role in Catholic health care ministry.

Help us to be signs of love and compassion in the world today—
honoring every person we meet who is in need of healing.

When our burdens are heavy, renew us,
remind us of the blessing of our calling and
reawaken our commitment to the healing ministry.

Amen.

Source: <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/world-day-of-the-sick-blessing>

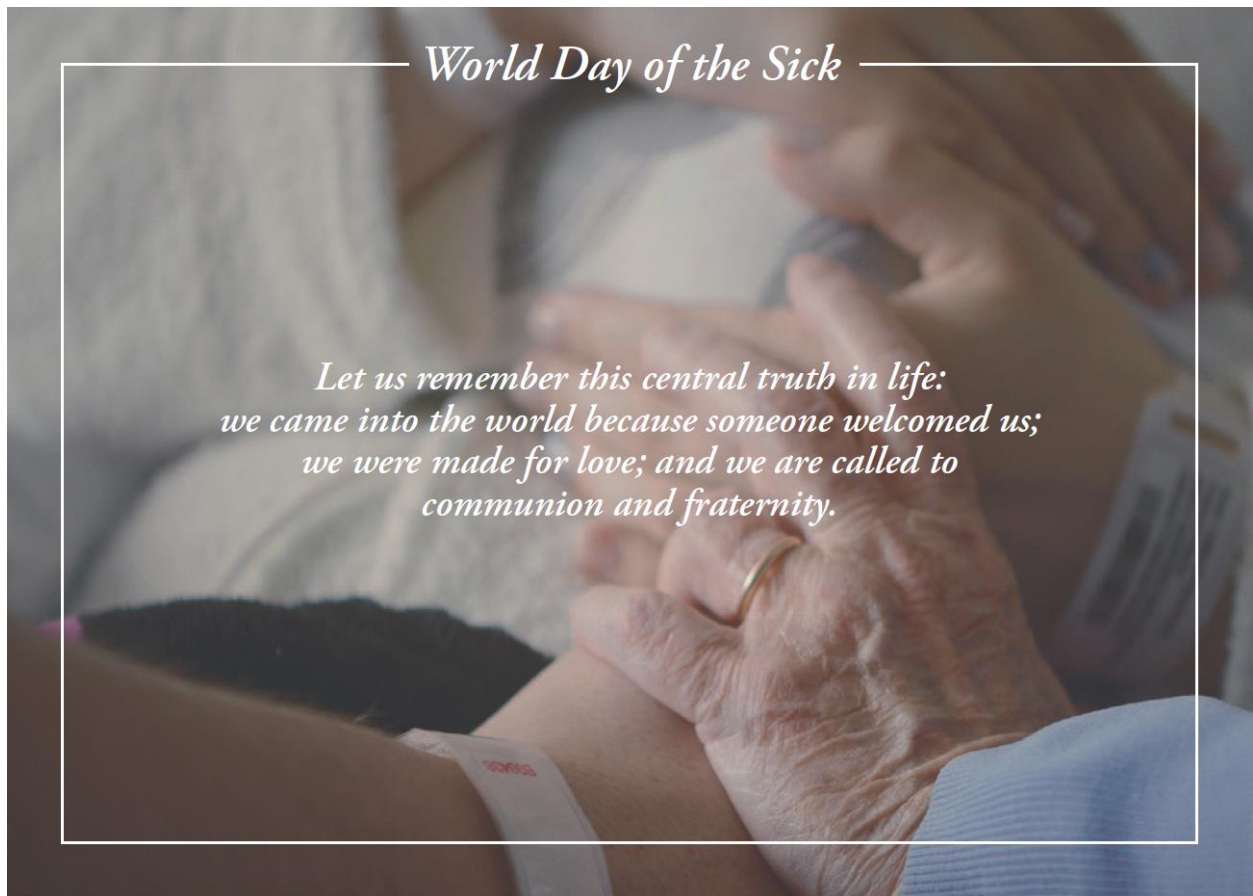
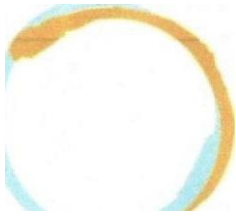


Image source: Catholic Health Association of the United States



World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

Voices for Hospices

Call to Prayer:

The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. *Psalm 145:9*

Leader:

God is the giver of all good gifts and the Lord of life. We are grateful for hospice and palliative care, which honor the gift of life. In the face of death, life limiting or serious illness for which there is a cure, palliative care affirms the value and dignity of human life. Both hospice and palliative care celebrate and affirm hope in the face of suffering, joy in the midst of pain and eternal life in the face of death.

Reader 1: Isaiah 40: 1, 11, 28-31

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,

Carrying them in his bosom,
leading the ewes with care.

Do you not know?
Have you not heard?

The Lord is God from of old,
creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary,
and his knowledge is beyond scrutiny.

He gives power to the faint,
abundant strength to the weak.

Though young men faint and grow weary,
and youths stagger and fall,

They that hope in the Lord will renew their
strength,
they will soar on eagles' wings;

They will run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint.

Reader 2: Pope Francis on the importance of accompaniment

The categorical imperative is to never abandon the sick. The anguish associated with conditions that bring us to the threshold of human mortality, and the difficulty of the decision we have to make, may tempt us to step back from the patient. Yet this is where, more than anything else, we are called to show love and closeness, recognizing the limit that we all share and showing our solidarity. Let each of us give love in his or her own way—as a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother or sister, a doctor or a nurse. But give it! And even if we know that we cannot always guarantee healing or a cure, we can and must always care for the living, without ourselves shortening their life, but also without futilely resisting their death. This approach is reflected in palliative care, which is proving most important in our culture, as it opposes what makes death most terrifying and unwelcome—pain and loneliness.

Prayer

Leader: Let us together lift up our needs to our God, who is ever-present and always loving. God of all comfort, be with those who are sick and suffering. May they receive the medical, spiritual and psychological care they need; may they be supported in love by their family and friends, enabled to live well. We pray,

All: Gracious God, hear us.

Leader: God of all companionship, be with those who care for others in their infirmity. Strengthen them with the graces of patience, love, joy and peace. Surround them with communities of care. We pray,

All: Gracious God, hear us.

Leader: God of all people, move in our hearts that we may affirm the value of all human life through our action and advocacy on behalf of those who suffer. Open our eyes to see you in the faces of those affected by serious illness that we may care for them as we would care for you. We pray

All: Gracious God, hear us.

All - Closing Prayer:

God of life and death, you became human, accompanied us and shared our joy and know our pain. Be with those who suffer physically, mentally or emotionally.

Give us the courage and grace to draw near to those who suffer, offering our support, care and loving presence. May our solidarity and witness affirm the beauty and value of each human life. Amen.

Litany:

Saint Joseph, patron of the dying, **pray for us.**

St. Lidwina, patron of the chronically ill and suffering, **pray for us.**

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, patron of those in pain and suffering, **pray for us.**

St. Peregrine, patron of cancer patients, **pray for us.**

©The Catholic Health Association of The United States

Prayer for Those in Palliative Care and Hospice Services

Leader: God of strength in weakness and hope in despair, we are yours in life and death. Sustain us for the journey of walking [*name of loved one*] home to you. Give us the graces you gave those who walked with your Son in his final moments on Earth. Steady our hands, gentle our hearts and sustain our spirits that seeing your face in [*name*] they may also see you in us.

Reader: *Matthew 27:32*

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

All: When we are asked to serve in ways we do not anticipate, give us the strength of Simon to carry the cross of [*name*] with love and grace, always honoring [*him/her*]).

Reader: *Mark 15:39*

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

All: When [*name's*] time on Earth draws to a close, give us the faith of the centurion to remind [*name*] that [*he/she*] is a beloved child of God.

Reader: *Luke 23:50-53*

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

All: Give us Joseph of Arimathea's tender extravagance and quiet faithfulness as we tend to [*name's*] final needs on Earth. Reveal these tasks as sacramental expressions of love.

Reader: *Mark 16:1, 5-6*

When the sabbath was over Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. On entering the tomb they saw a young man on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him."

The Catholic Health Association of the United States

Bibliography

“Access to Palliative Care in Canada, 2023.” Canadian Institute of Health Information, Government of Canada, www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/access-to-palliative-care-in-canada-2023-report-en.pdf.

Analyzing Hospice Palliative Care across Canada: A Report on Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Community Actions. <https://cancer.ca/-/media/files/about-us/media-releases/2023/palliative-care-report/adv23163palliative-care-report85x11en04.pdf>.

Canada, Health. “Action Plan on Palliative Care.” 29 Oct. 2019, www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-care-system/reports-publications/palliative-care/action-plan-palliative-care.html.

Canada. Health. “Palliative Care.” www.canada.ca, 25 Feb. 2016, www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-services-benefits/palliative-care.html.

Covenant Health Palliative Institute (2020). Engaging Stakeholders to Improve Policy and Access to Quality Palliative Care in Canada: Stakeholder Identification, Analysis and Future Direction. Retrieved from the Palliative Care Matters website: <http://www.palliativecarematters.ca/s/PCMStakeholderAnalysisFinal.pdf>.

“Framework on Palliative Care in Canada.” Health Canada, Government of Canada, www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/health-system-services/framework-palliative-care-five-years-later/final-pdf-english-report-to-parliament-palliative-care.pdf.

Government of Canada. “Fourth Annual Report on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada 2022.” www.canada.ca, 26 Oct. 2023, www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/health-system-services/annual-report-medical-assistance-dying-2022.html.

Ho, Anita, et al. “How Does Medical Assistance in Dying Affect End-of-Life Care Planning Discussions? Experiences of Canadian Multidisciplinary Palliative Care Providers.” *Palliative Care and Social Practice*, vol. 15, Jan. 2021, p. 263235242110459, <https://doi.org/10.1177/26323524211045996>.

National Institute on Aging. “Providing Care and Comfort at the End of Life.” National Institute on Aging, 17 Nov. 2022, www.nia.nih.gov/health/end-life/providing-care-and-comfort-end-life.

Qureshi, Danial, et al. “Early Initiation of Palliative Care Is Associated with Reduced Late-Life Acute-Hospital Use: A Population-Based Retrospective Cohort Study.” *Palliative Medicine*, vol. 33, no. 2, Dec. 2018, pp. 150–59, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0269216318815794>.

“The State of Pediatric Palliative Care in Canada.” Cardus, www.cardus.ca/research/health/reports/the-state-of-pediatric-palliative-care-in-canada/.

“Understanding Palliative Care: It's Not What You Think.” www.lung.org/blog/understanding-palliative-care.

Wu, Elizabeth, et al. “Prolonged Grief and Bereavement Supports within a Caregiver Population Who Transition through a Palliative Care Program in British Columbia, Canada.” *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*®, vol. 39, no. 3, July 2021, pp. 361–69, <https://doi.org/10.1177/10499091211030442>.



*“Protection of life at the beginning
and end of life is precious.
Life needs members’ prayers.”*

National President Shari Guinta

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care from May 5–11, 2024



The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

cwl.ca