

## Prayer for the XXI World Day of the Sick – 11 February 2013

Almighty and eternal God,  
you are our foundation and our support,  
you are the hope that never abandons us,  
and the Love that gives itself on the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus.  
Make your Face shine on all sick people,  
the suffering and the dying.  
Be merciful with them.  
Still send Good Samaritans  
who will serve and heal sick, suffering and dying people,  
and help the weakest with love and care.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
today we turn to you and we pray to you:  
You know the pain of the defenceless,  
when suffering cannot be distanced.  
Through your being at the foot of the cross and  
your suffering as a mother,  
you became for us the salvation of the sick.  
Through your intercession, may we have the strength and the courage  
to look at the crucified Christ,  
and may we bear our sufferings with courage,  
entrusting ourselves to him.

God, full of goodness, Our Father and Mother.  
We thank you for the very many exemplary witnesses  
who trod a pathway of tribulation,  
and whom you have given to us as our intercessors.

We thank you for St. Anna Schäffer,  
who was harshly afflicted from an early age,  
being confined to bed because of a grave accident.  
We turn to you, St. Anna Schäffer:  
by striving for an intimate  
friendship with Jesus Christ who was crucified and rose again,  
you managed not only to bear your suffering  
but also to sacrifice yourself with him for  
other suffering people, above all for those  
who felt they had no hope.  
Through your intercession help us, as well,  
to embrace our lives even if they are afflicted by pain,  
to look with trust to the crucified Christ,  
and to tread our pathway in the certainty  
that the love of Christ is stronger than any pain,  
stronger than evil, and stronger than death.

We thank you for Blessed Pope John Paul II.  
He was always at the side of the sick,  
fearless defender of human life.  
We turn to you Blessed Pope John Paul II:  
Let it be that through prayer we may obtain the strength of faith,  
and the certainty that we will not become lost,  
and that with the whole of our lives and our sufferings  
we will be safe in the hands and heart of God.  
Give us courage through the example you gave of dying,  
in the last hours of our lives as well.

We also thank you for the Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta,  
a true angel in the dark nights of the marginalised and the dying.  
We turn to you Blessed Mother Teresa,  
who trusting in the infinite love of Jesus Christ and  
in his sacrifice of death on the cross, always ensured  
that the light of Christ's love penetrated the darkness of suffering.  
Obtain for us the faith and the awareness that we too can  
become a light for suffering people.  
Let us be able to shine forth hope,  
and let us, as well, recognise in our sick and suffering neighbour  
the Face of our loving God and give to that person our ready help.

God, One and Triune,  
we now place ourselves into your loving hands.  
We trust in your boundless love.  
You watch over us  
on good days and difficult days,  
in life and in death.  
Through our pain, let our faith and our trust in you  
be renewed so that all people can  
experience the grace of redemption.  
Now and forever.  
Amen.