

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK PRAYER LEAFLET 2008

World Day of the Sick

February 11th 2008

Theme: HOPE IN TIME OF SICKNESS

- Encyclical Letter *Spe Salvi* of Pope Benedict XVI - November 2007.
(Website: www.vatican.va/)

Spe Salvi draws upon the rich treasures of Pope Benedict XVI's learning, with references from the lives of the saints and the Church Fathers. Armed with this wisdom and the virtue of hope, the Holy Father says, "The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life."

- Identify Reasons for Hope
- Lighted Candles
- Burning Incense

Hymn:

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open our hearts let Jesus return.
Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
The sun still shines on; it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
The people of darkness are needing our friend.

Prayer:

Tender and compassionate God, Your Son, Jesus, always had a special welcome for the sick. Support then with your power, give them hope in times of suffering and keep them always in your care. May we imitate his example in caring for those who are broken or wounded. In the wonder of the Trinity you live in never-ending love, with your Son and the Holy Spirit. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

1st Reading

St. Paul to Romans:

Rom: 18:24

I consider that the suffering of our present life cannot be compared with the glory that will be revealed and given to us. All creation is eagerly expecting the transformation of the children of God. For the created world was subject to frustration; this did not come from itself, but from the one who subjected it. But it is not without hope; for even the created world will be freed from this fate of death and share the freedom and Glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pangs of birth. Not creation alone, but even ourselves, although the Spirit was given to us as a foretaste of what we are to receive, we groan in our innermost being, eagerly awaiting the day when God will adopt us and take to himself our bodies as well. To hope is the way we are saved. But if we saw what we hoped for, there would no longer be hope; how can you hope for what is already seen. So we hope for what we do not see and we will receive it through patient hope.

Or

Luke: 13:10

Hymn:

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Be thou in my dwelling, and I with thee one.

GOSPEL:

Luke: 10: 25-37

Reflection:

Lord I come before you
In the weakness that has overcome me,
with the feelings that I cannot share or try to hide,
with the emptiness that sometimes grips me,
and with the physical and mental pain that
so often preoccupies me.

But I also come in faith and trust,
In humility and reverence,
and I ask to be relieved and healed.
You took human weakness on yourself
when you lived and died for our sake.
By rising from the dead, you manifested
your victory over all human weakness,

over all the negatives that tend to break us
and over death itself.
Because of that our trust is deepened:
You can overcome the negative feelings we experience.

Now I present myself to you
knowing that you love me just as I am
but knowing also your will is my happiness,
and that you can bring this about
in ways that I will not be able to understand.
Help me this day not to be undermined by illness
by pain or by problems that beset me.
I ask this not just for myself
But for the sake of all those whose lives I touch.

Hymn:

Lord of all hopefulness
Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like,
no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking,
and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord
at the break of the day.

Intercessions:

For those suffering from illness or disability we pray:

R: In your mercy bring them comfort and strength

For those who are dying:

R: In your mercy bring them comfort and strength

For the elderly who are lonely and alone:

R: In your mercy bring them comfort and strength

Lord we pray for all those who care for the sick,
Bless them with your gifts of compassion and love.

We pray for those who are in need of healing
Healing of the mind
Healing of the body
Healing of the spirit

May the Lord walk in their footsteps

His presence bringing peace.

Concluding Prayer

Spirit of God, you are the stirring in our hearts. You prompt us to follow. You encourage us not to give up. You call us to open our minds and our hearts to receive your energizing, transforming radiance. Make us receptive so that we will follow your loving movement within.

It is our hope that this day will be our spiritual transformation and the transformation of others through us. We ask this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.