

Catholic Health Care – An Enduring Mission

World Day of the Sick – February 11, 2021

Health care around the world has been challenged in unimaginable ways with the pandemic transforming our health care landscape and society. This year, as we observe World Day of the Sick, the words of Matthew (11.28) aptly describe the special role of our Catholic healthcare in our society today: “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Within the 129 Catholic health organizations in Canada, our 88,000 staff provide essential care for 5 million people every year. Each of these Catholic organizations carries on the healing ministry of Jesus, identifying and responding to unmet need in local communities, especially the needs of people who are poor and vulnerable.

The last year has shone a public light on many important issues, perhaps most significantly the vulnerability and



marginalization of our seniors. It has initiated public discussion about concepts at the heart of our Catholic ministry—community, solidarity, common good, and our social responsibility to those most vulnerable. And, individually, it has called us all to reflect on our quality of life, the importance of human

connection and the meaning of a holistic wellbeing — body, mind and spirit.

Catholic social teaching has timeless relevance to our collective role in building a just and caring Canadian society that reaches out to every person who is suffering from illness, stigma, poverty or loneliness. Catholic health providers are called to carry on this enduring mission into an uncertain world.

Every day, Catholic health providers witness the tremendous depth of faith and strength of the people we serve and their stories of courage, hope and resilience. In those we serve, we are privileged to see the “face of Christ.”

Mr. John Ruetz
President & CEO
Catholic Health Alliance of Canada
http://www.chac.ca/index_e.php

©Novalis/Bayard Presse Canada. Used with permission.