

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Webinar

"World Day of the Sick: Meaning, Goals and Challenges."

10 February 2022, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

CONCEPT NOTE

On February 11, 2022, in the Vatican Basilica of St. Peter's, the XXX World Day of the Sick will be solemnly celebrated with the theme: *"Be merciful, as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6,36): to stand by those who suffer on a path of charity*. On the occasion of this happy anniversary, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is organizing, in addition to the Eucharistic celebration, a Webinar to reaffirm the value of the initiative as this year reaches its 30th edition.

As throughout the centuries, even today, the Church of Christ, led by Pope Francis, strongly feels that the service to the sick and suffering is an integral part of its mission (cf. *Dolentium Hominum*, 1). Therefore, the celebration of the World Day of the Sick, established by St. John Paul II on May 13, 1992, continues to be an initiative of great importance that, going beyond the mere chronological moment itself, must be understood as a constant and choral action of the whole Church, a healing community, which stands beside those who suffer on a path of charity.

During the Webinar we want to retrace the history of the World Day of the Sick, put it in the context of today and examine how it can still sensitize the people of God, Catholic health care institutions and civil society to the sick who can never be discriminated against, discarded and forgotten. The sick person must always be welcomed, cared for, visited and loved as a person, whose dignity is independent of his illness.

The event is addressed, in particular, to those responsible for the pastoral care of health, social and health workers, chaplains, all those involved in health care, religious men and women and lay people, volunteers, in a spirit of communion and fraternity that has characterized the celebrations of the World Day of the Sick in the particular Churches of various countries from the beginning.

Precisely in this line, Pope Francis reminds us "that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not the task only of certain specifically dedicated ministers; [...] it is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples" (Francis, *Message for World Day of the Sick 2022*).



**DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

WEBINAR:

"WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: MEANING, GOALS, AND CHALLENGES"

10 FEBRUARY 2022

PROGRAM

MODERATOR: *Dr Gianni Cervellera*

Doctor in Theology, Pastoral Coordinator at Fatebenefratelli di Cernusco sul Naviglio and Member of the CEI National Council for the Pastoral Care in Health

I. INTRODUCTORY SESSION

15:00 PRAYER

OPENING OF THE EVENT AND WORD OF WELCOME

H.Em. Cardinal Michael Czerny S.I.

Prefect ad interim of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Holy See

15:10 VIDEO-MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

15:20 INSTITUTION AND HISTORY OF THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Rev. Fr Carmine Arice

Superior General of the Society of Cottolengo Fathers

President of the Health Commission of the Union of Superiors General (USG)

15:35 VIDEO TESTIMONIES OF A PERSON HEALED FROM COVID-19, A HEALTH WORKER AND A PASTORAL WORKER, ON THE EXPERIENCE, CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PERSON HEALED FROM COVID-19

Mr. Giovanni De Cerce

Catechist and Member of the Neocatechumenal Way

HEALTH WORKER

Dr. Antonia López González

Physician and Health Coordinator of the Program "Escuelas de Salud Panamazónica" del Esadte and Health Coordinator of the Health Program IPIRANGA BRASIL in the Barca-Ospedale ACI-ESADTE, Brazil.

PASTORAL WORKER

Rev. Fr. Arnaldo Pangrazzi, M.I.

Chaplain and Lecturer in Health Care Ministry

15:45 COMMENTARY: MESSAGE OF THE XXX WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

SICK PERSON

Mr. Alberto Iossa

Member of the Italian National Union of Transport for the ill to Lourdes and International Sanctuaries (UNITALSI)

CARE GIVER

Dr. Elvio Coppari

Director UOC Orthopedics and Traumatology, M.G. Vannini Hospital, Daughters of St. Camillus, Italy

II. SECOND SESSION: TESTIMONIES ON THE SIX OBJECTIVES OF WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

16.00 SENSITIZING THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM

President of The National Catholic Bioethics Center, USA

16:10 HELPING THE SICK TO VALUE SUFFERING

Rev. Fr. Johnny Freire

Moderator General, Volunteers of Suffering Center and Silent Workers of the Cross (CVS e SOC)

16:20 INVOLVING DIOCESES, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES AND RELIGIOUS FAMILIES IN HEALTH MINISTRY

Fra. Giancarlo Lopic

Father Fatebenefratello and Doctor of Moral Theology

16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:45 ENCOURAGING THE COMMITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

H.E. Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel

Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion in Obedience

Grand Hospitaller, Sovereign Order of Malata

16:55 PROMOTING THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL FORMATION OF HEALTH WORKERS

Don Sebastian Kondzior

Doctor in Theology, Chaplain of the University Clinical Hospital of Bialystok, Poland

17:05 TO RECALL THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK

Dr Maria Elena Bellini

Psychologist at the Hospice Casa San Giuseppe in Gorlago, Italy

17:15 CONCLUSION

Sister Alessandra Smerilli

Secretary ad interim of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Holy See

17:30 END OF THE SESSION