

“The memory of this long history of service to the sick is cause for rejoicing on the part of the Christian community, and especially those presently engaged in this ministry. Yet we must look to the past above all to let it enrich us. We should learn the lesson it teaches us about the self-sacrificing generosity of many founders of institutes in the service of the infirm, the creativity, prompted by charity, of many initiatives undertaken over the centuries, and the commitment to scientific research as a means of offering innovative and reliable treatments to the sick. This legacy of the past helps us to build a better future, for example, by shielding Catholic hospitals from the business mentality that is seeking worldwide to turn health care into a profit-making enterprise, which ends up discarding the poor.”

**POPE FRANCIS**

*Message for World Day of the Sick 2018*



Gentle and loving God, we are grateful for the call to serve you in your healing ministry. We first ask your blessing on those who are sick, especially those across the world without access to health care. Bless those who care for sick family members in their homes, comfort them all with the peace of your presence.

We know that as you call us to ministry in your name, you also grace us with the gifts we need to accomplish your work.

Strengthen us to provide care, when we cannot cure.

Inspire us to reject a mentality that diminishes people into diagnosis or procedures.

Renew in us the compassion and tenderness you showed as you cared for others.

**We ask this of you, our creator, our healer and our hope, now and forever. Amen.**

