

October 13, 2022

RE: Compassionate Healers' Mass Parish Letter

Dear Pastor,

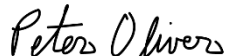
Every year, the Bishops of Saskatchewan mark one Sunday in the fall with a blessing of caregivers at the **Compassionate Healers' Mass**. This year, the Diocese of Prince Albert will be holding the Compassionate Healers Mass at 10 AM on Sunday October 23, 2022 at St. Joseph Parish in Prince Albert. Bishop Stephen Hero will be presiding.

In 2019 CHAS asked all the bishops to consider inviting local parishes to mark this special Sunday celebration by offering it in each parish. I hope you will join us again to offer a blessing to all those who share in the healing ministry of Christ: Family members who support elderly, sick and less-able people, medical professionals, counsellors, those who respond to the poor with their many faces.

The effects of the pandemic in the past year have put enormous stress on caregivers in every aspect of our community. They have felt the weight of offering care in circumstances where their efforts have been obstructed and restricted. Recognition of these challenges and words of support would fit well with the intention of the **Compassionate Healers Mass**.

Thank you for considering this invitation,

Peter Oliver



Executive Director - CHAS
peter@chassk.ca
(306) 955-2427

Please find below:

- A ritual of blessing
- Prayers of the Faithful

Compassionate Healers Mass
Ritual of Blessing & Prayer of the Faithful

Words of Invitation – (Representative of the parish)

This Sunday our diocese is celebrating the **Compassionate Healers Mass**.

The Church is more than a building. The Church is the People of God – the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. We rejoice in this gift of faith and turn now to recognize the many ways we live this gift as Compassionate Healers.

“Within our Catholic faith tradition, those who share in the healing ministry of Christ include our many unpaid caregivers of loved ones in their own home, volunteers, healthcare professionals who offer preventative, acute and long-term care, people who work in home care, parish nursing, end-of-life care, spiritual care, supportive counselling.

Still, others serve in healthcare through administration, buildings and equipment maintenance and assistance with technological systems.

We recognize as well, those in our community respond to the needs of the poor, who visit the lonely, provide support and counsel to the addicted, attend to the wounds of victims of crime and those who walk with Christ in the person of the prisoner.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge and bless your healing ministry.

- If you work in the area of healthcare as a nurse, doctor, care aid, homecare, receptionist, administrator, in food services, custodial services are any other area that supports health services in our community, please stand.
- If you are providing support and care for a family member in their own home or in a care facility, please stand.
- If you work in the area of counselling, addictions, suicide prevention, as a paramedic, in psychiatry or pharmacy please stand.
- If your volunteer commitments or work involves dedicated time to walking with people who are impoverished, harmed by crime, addicted or in prison, please stand.
- If you recognize in these witnesses that you also share in the healing ministry of Christ, please stand.

Fr. _____ I present to you the Compassionate Healers in our midst today.

Compassionate Healers Mass
Ritual of Blessing & Prayer of the Faithful

Presider

At this time, I invite you to place your right hand on your heart and extend your left hand to receive a blessing:

O Holy Lord blessed be the works of these Compassionate Healers.

Blessed be their hands which have treasured and cherished the lives of our sisters and brothers.

Blessed be their voices that have nurtured forgiveness.

Blessed be their hearts that have held and eased pain.

Blessed be their families who share their work of compassion.

Blessed be their creativity that has planted new seeds.

Blessed be their convictions that sustains their caring for our community.

Blessed be their faith that moves them to reach out and to receive.

Blessed be their hope that holds the promise of our future.

O Holy Lord, bless your Compassionate Healers gathered here today.

Let us pray together:

Loving and gracious God, source of all life and goodness, hear the prayers we have for the Compassionate Healers in our midst. Give them strength and courage to carry out their duties with confidence and joy.

We ask this blessing in the name of your beloved Son Jesus. AMEN.

Compassionate Healers Mass
Ritual of Blessing & Prayer of the Faithful

Prayers of the Faithful:

Lector: The response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For the sick and hospitalized: may they feel the healing power of Christ and find comfort and hope in His constant presence.

We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For healthcare workers in our hospitals, long term care facilities and community: may they be a light to others and a testament to Christ's compassion as they live their faith and care for their patients.

We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those supporting family members: may they find in themselves the generous hands of Christ and the strength to offer healing and hope, especially when more is asked than they feel able to give.

We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who offer help and support to people struggling with addictions, those in prison and individuals with mental health concerns: may they respond with compassion and creativity as they share healing words and presence.

We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For those who work with victims of crime and domestic abuse: help them cherish the dignity of the people they work with and help them inspire confidence and peace in those who seek their aid.

We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For administrators and government leaders: may they work to enact legislation and policies that elevates human dignity, recognizes the common good and reverence faith in God.

We pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**