



#104 – 3502 Taylor Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5H9
(306) 955-CHAS (2427)
www.chassk.ca

August 21, 2020

RE: Compassionate Healers' Mass

Dear pastor,

Every year, the bishops of Saskatchewan mark one Sunday in the Fall with an anointing of caregivers at the Compassionate Healers' Mass. Last year, for the first time, CHAS asked all the bishops to consider inviting local parishes to also mark this special Sunday by sharing this blessing in parishes right across the province.

This year, I hope you will join us again to offer a blessing to all first responders, care givers, nurses, doctors and those who visit the sick and lonely in whatever capacity.

The Sundays chosen by the bishops to mark this day in your diocese is:

Prince Albert on September 20, St. Joseph's Parish @ 10:00 AM

Regina on September 27, Holy Rosary Cathedral @ 11:00 AM

Saskatoon on October 4, Holy Family Cathedral @ 9:00 AM

Who do these "compassionate healers" care for? In the July 1, 2020 letter from the CCCB, the Bishops of Canada named the many people whose need of care has been increased exponentially by the COVID crisis,

The pandemic has inflicted unique difficulties and exceptional hardships on many, especially those in long-term institutional care, single-parent families, the unemployed, migrant farm workers, the homeless, Indigenous communities, those who are imprisoned, and many who were already experiencing different illnesses of body and mind.

Due to COVID, the regular procession and anointing will be replaced by a blessing ritual which is included on the next page.

Thank you for considering this invitation and feel free to contact me with any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blake Sittler".

Blake Sittler
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The Compassion of Christ Compels Us



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**Compassionate Healers Mass 2020
Ritual of Commissioning of Care Givers**

Presider: *(introduction to blessing)*

The Church is more than a building; the Church is the People of God who believe and know they are disciples of Jesus Christ. We gather here on the Sabbath and take Christ out into the world through our care.

As a follower of Christ, you are called to let your faith and your service to others be a sign to the world. You are invited to share fully in the mission of Jesus who is our source of life and love.

Each of us, acting out of love of God and neighbour, is called to minister to the needs of the community.

In this time of pandemic, loneliness and isolation are exacerbated by social distancing. In our desire to care for each other by keeping our distance, some who are home bound, in hospital or in long-term care struggle with loneliness, isolation and even hopelessness.

Jesus continually calls us forth to be the source of life and love that only his presence can bring. He is always there to support and guide us in reaching out to those whose pathways in life have been weighed down with trauma, heartache and disaster.

Normally, in past years, this would be the time that I would bless the oil and invite forward healthcare workers and those who visit the lonely and isolated, but since this is not possible because of pandemic safety protocols, I now ask you all to bow your heads, to consider how you can be a healing presence to someone in your family or community.

BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE:

Presider: Lord, you are the source of every blessing.
May we strive always to be your presence
 To those who need physical healing,
 To those who are struggling with mental illness,
 To the elderly and home bound,
 To those who cry for spiritual support,
 especially those who feel abandoned by God,
 And for those who bear the affliction of loneliness and neglect.
We ask that you send down your Holy Spirit
To grant us the gifts of courage, peace, and listening
So that we can be a peaceful presence to those whom we visit and care for.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son,
who lives and reigns forever and ever. AMEN

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