



September 14, 2021

Compassionate Healers' Mass – Sunday, September 26, 2021

Dear Pastors, pastoral care workers, and parishioners,

Each year the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan invites us to take one Sunday in September and acknowledge caregivers in our community: those caring for elderly and sick persons at home as well as those in the health care system.

The global pandemic has brought extra stress and risk for frontline workers, and everyone in the world is greatly indebted to the courageous and dedicated work of doctors, nurses, hospital and clinic staff, paramedics, and frontline medical support people.

We would kindly ask that Sunday, September 26 be designated in your parish to acknowledge the service of caregivers and to bless those who may be assisting at the weekend Masses. For your convenience, I am including the text of the prayer from the *Roman Ritual* that can be used to bless caregivers after the homily or before the final blessing of the Mass:

**Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy,
who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity
and the great commandment of love for one another.
Send down your blessings + on these your servants,
who so generously devote themselves to helping others.
When they are called on in times of need,
let them faithfully serve you in their neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Book of Blessings* #587)**

As well, St. Michael's Parish in Prince Albert has kindly accepted to host the diocesan celebration of the 2021 Compassionate Healers' Mass at 9:30 a.m. at which I will preside.

I wish to personally thank all those who carry out this important service of care in homes and in various ways in the health care system. St. Teresa of Calcutta loved to speak about the 'Gospel on Five Fingers,' i.e. "You did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) Jesus teaches that the loving service of caregivers is a profound way to love God and is in fact a way of touching God in the wounded members of his body.

In the Heart of Christ,

+ Stephen A. Hero

+ Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero
Bishop of Prince Albert