



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*).