



Current Issues in Prayer

April 2022

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray for **health workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries. May they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.**



Getting started:

I start by focusing on my body. How is my health? If I am healthy and feel well, I may want to express gratitude for this. If I have a medical condition, I may want to think about how my illness is effecting me and think about the help I received from persons in healthcare.



Short story:

The promised medicines have not arrived! The high levels of anxiety Nyasha, the senior nurse in the Nyahuku rural clinic, Zimbabwe, has been feeling lately go up one more notch. What is she going to do? She thinks of some of her patients: Fatima who is very ill with malaria, Netsai has diabetes and her supply of insulin is going to run out tomorrow, and Simon needs his treatment for tuberculosis and as well as for HIV. Many more patients will come in today. Many of them walk miles to get here. Women come to give birth, people with HIV, so very common here, need their treatment, others are battling infections, hypertension the list of maladies goes on and on. How is Nyasha going to face all these people and tell them that she can do nothing for them? And then the solution dawns on her. She will go for the medicines herself. But she will only be able to do so after she has seen to the immediate needs of her patients. She will spend the morning and afternoon in the clinic and then she will drive 173 km to the hospital to get the medicines she needed. This means that she will not get home until late at night. Her husband will not be happy with that, but tomorrow her patients will get the medicines they so desperately need.



Time to reflect:

What is my experience of healthcare? How is this different from that of Nyasha's patients?



Let us pray:

Jesus, we pray for healthcare workers throughout the world. Accompany them in their mission and give them the gift of selflessness. Lord bless them and keep them under your loving gaze.



Inspiration:

"Whoever saves a life, saves the entire world."

From the film: Schindler's list. Paraphrased from the Talmud



Hands on:

I ask a healthcare worker I know how s/he feels about his/her work and the patients.

If I can, I make a donation to an organisation that provides medical care in developing countries.