



Current Issues in Prayer

February 2024

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.**



Getting started:

I find a quiet spot and for a few moments, I feel the presence of the Father looking down upon me with his loving gaze. I get in touch with my present feelings and offer all that I am to the Lord. Now I bring to my mind all those individuals nearing the end of their lives.



Short story:

Maria had been fighting liver cancer for over fifteen years. She had also been taken abroad for special surgery. Although her condition improved for a time, the cancer eventually re-emerged, having to rush to hospital in a critical condition a number of times. Each time, she made it through. As the years passed, her condition deteriorated and she could not hold down any food, even of the little she would manage to eat. Maria could no longer cope with her day-to-day tasks. Maria's doctor suggested that they contact an NGO that provides palliative care for cancer patients, called 'Hospice'. However, it turned out not to be so simple. Maria's husband never really accepted that his wife was so sick. He would at times even scold her and say that she was over-reacting to her symptoms. Moreover, her husband was prone to escape by seeking drink and never gave a helping hand in the house chores. Maria's two adult children would try to help as they could, but since she had pulled through for years, they did not believe, deep down, that she was nearing her end. Maria's son's fiancée observed what was going on and once showed him a DVD on the topic of coming to terms with dying. She also suggested that they get a priest to speak with the family and especially with Maria and administer the Anointing of the Sick to his mother. He was moved to tears by the DVD and agreed to seek out support for his mother and for the family.



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Time to reflect:

Dealing with a terminal illness is very difficult both for the person and for the family. How would the situation have been better had Maria's husband been more reconciled to the situation?



Let us pray:

Lord Jesus may all those individuals with terminal illness and their families find peace within their difficult situations. May they all find the necessary physical and spiritual care they require.



Inspiration:

It is true I suffer a great deal. But do I suffer well? That's the question.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Hands on:

If I am aware of any family where there is terminal illness, I will try to connect with them and be there for them if they so require. I will pray for them and provide any help as I can.