

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Prayers in the time of COVID-19



**Audience:** All Colleagues

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## **1. For Peace in Anxiety During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

Loving God, we come to you full of anxiety about what may happen in the coming days and weeks. Shower us with the peace Jesus promised to his disciples, and make us into steady pillars for those around us. In this time of uncertainty and epidemic, wake us up to the reminder that we are not alone.

Even as we are asked to keep our distance from others, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our support. Sustain, strengthen and protect all caregivers. Bless them as they offer compassionate care and show selfless courage in the face of risk.

Remind us, each time we wash our hands, that in our baptism you call us to let go of our fears and live in joy, peace, and hope. Amen.

*From CHA website*

## **2. From the letter of James 2:14-17**

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Let us pray...

Divine Healer,

We find ourselves in a time of immediate need for many in our community and in our world. May our action today and everyday be a witness to our faith in your mercy, your compassion, and your profound love for each of one of us and those whom we serve.

Guide our action so that we may be a beacon of hope in this time of fear and a community of support to each other.

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### **3. From the Prophet Isaiah 58:6-8**

Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose:

releasing those bound unjustly,

untying the thongs of the yoke;

Setting free the oppressed,

breaking off every yoke?

Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry,

bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house;

Clothing the naked when you see them,

and not turning your back on your own flesh?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your wound shall quickly be healed;

Your vindication shall go before you,

and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

God of Justice,

Your prophet Isaiah reminds us how expansive your love is. As we respond to the needs of our patients today and to the needs of our community in the midst of the coronavirus, give us the grace and the wisdom to make decisions with the most vulnerable and the most marginalized in our hearts.

As always, may your expansive love bind us together in the sacred work we do today and guide our every interaction with each other.

### **4. From John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

God of Hope,

In this time of crisis, it is easy to cling to fear. A fear that closes us off to you and to our community. Instead of fear, let us cling to your word. Let our hearts not be afraid, but open to your call to compassionate care. Renew us with your peace and fill us with the hope that can only come from you.

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### **5. *Living our Values***

Our core values of reverence, commitment to those who are poor, justice, stewardship, integrity, and safety call us to a higher path in all times. Seeing ourselves as a ministry, bringing the love of God to those we care for in tangible ways can be difficult in any time.

It is, however, in times like these where we discover who we are as individuals and as an organization. Living our values when it is hard, being a Catholic healthcare ministry when it is hard, is when we are called to live it more deeply.

Merciful and loving God,

You have called us to a ministry of service. We are in a time of deep need and preparation for what is to come. Give us the resolve to be who you have called us to be and the grace to love more deeply.

As always, bind us together as a community of healers and may the way we communicate and support each other be a witness of hope and love to our community.

### **6. *On our Interdependence***

A contagious outbreak acts as a visible sign of how connected we are as one human family. So many of our hopes and fears are shared universally around the world. This shared experience is a reminder to us of the immense good that we can do with simple actions. Connecting to those who are isolated, showing compassion to all around us, and praying for those around the world who need our prayers.

God, Creator of the Universe,

You call us to solidarity. To act in ways that recognize the way your one human family are interdependent on each other and dependent on you. Guide us during this time to choose kindness in the face of difficulty and faith when tempted to despair.

May our acts of solidarity bring us closer to each other and to your vision for our ministry.

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## ***7. Praying as a Global Community***

On Sunday, March 22, Pope Francis said "We wish to respond to the pandemic of the virus with the universality of prayer, of compassion and tenderness. Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt to those who are along and to those who are most stricken. Let us also express our closeness to doctors, to health workers, nurses, volunteers and to authorities that have to take hard measures, but ones that are for our good."

Pope Francis has asked that all people of good will pray today at midday. He made an invitation for all Christians to pray the Our Father at that time so that our voices may be united throughout the world.

God of all humanity,

Hear our prayer today. May it unite us with the whole world as we grapple with this pandemic. Hear our prayer and fashion us into a people more committed to love and to service of each other.

## ***8. Finding Hope to Move Forward by Looking Back***

Our coordinated efforts during this pandemic rely on good communication, clear and decisive plans, and collecting good data. We also rely on hope. Let the legacy of our founders be a source of our hope. They have responded, throughout history to health crises all over the world, often with little to no resources. Their faith and hope in the future has brought us to this moment in history. We stand on their shoulders as we move forward in hope.

Loving God,

Your gift of hope has the power to raise our head when we feel discouraged and calm us when we are overwhelmed. Grant us the wisdom of our founders so we may be hope for each other and our teams now. May our hope carry forward in all we do as we care for the community of people you have called us to serve.

## ***9. Practicing Stewardship***

One aspect of stewardship that we don't speak about enough is how we care for one another. Good stewardship includes the proper maintenance of our working relationships. Looking out for one another and helping one another in difficult moments are simple ways for us to live our value of stewardship. Perhaps today is a good day to take a look around your team and to ask what they need. What do they need, beyond masks and schedules? What do they need at a deep level or a spiritual level to keep doing the important work they do?

God of Abundance, our preparation for this pandemic heightens our awareness of what we have and what we do not have. Remind us that we have all that we need to be in relationship with you. You have given us all we need to care for each other. As we work to be good stewards, give us eyes to see each other and our relationships as gifts to be cared for. As always, bind us together as we work to serve your people.