



# UP TO THE SOURCE

*Adoratio* with St. John Paul II

— FOR PARISH GROUPS —

*Sick, Elderly, Caregivers, and Healthcare Providers*

## **Address to the Leaders in Catholic Health Care (Phoenix, Sept. 1987)**

2. Because of your dedication to caring for the sick and the poor, the aged and the dying, you know from your own daily experience how much illness and suffering are basic problems of human existence. When the sick flocked to Jesus during his earthly life, they recognized in him a friend whose deeply compassionate and loving heart responded to their needs. He restored physical and mental health to many. These cures, however, involved more than just healing sickness. They were also prophetic signs of his own identity and of the coming of the Kingdom of God, and they very often caused a new spiritual awakening in the one who had been healed.

The power that went out from Jesus and cured people of his own time (Lk 6:19) has not lost its effect in the two-thousand-year history of the Church. This power remains, in the life and prayer of the Church, a source of healing and reconciliation. Ever active, this power confirms the identity of the Church today, authenticates her proclamation of the Kingdom of God, and stands as a sign of triumph over evil.

With all Catholic health care the immediate aim is to provide for the well-being of the body and mind of the human person, especially in sickness or old age. By his example, Christ teaches the Christian "to do good by his or her suffering and to do good to those who suffer" (*Salvifici Doloris*, 30).

3. All concern for the sick and suffering is part of the Church's life and mission. The Church has always understood herself to be charged by Christ with the care of the poor, the weak, the defenseless, the suffering and those who mourn. This means that, as you alleviate suffering and seek to heal, you also bear

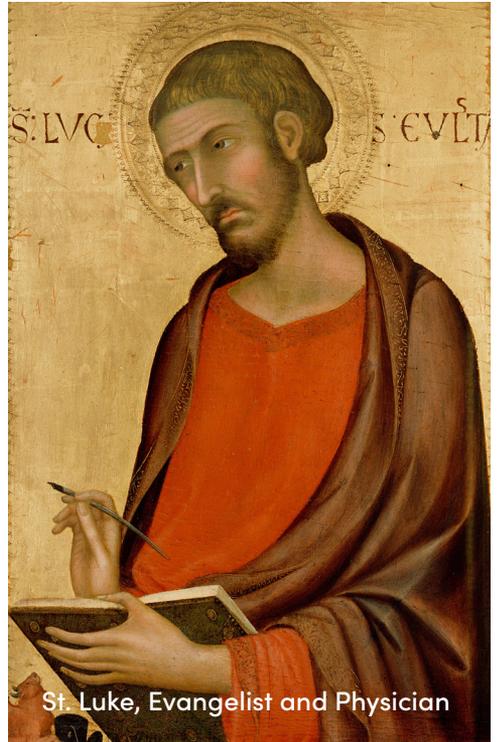
witness to the Christian view of suffering and to the meaning of life and death as taught by your Christian faith.

6. In the exercise of your professional activities you have a magnificent opportunity, by your constant witness to moral truth, to contribute to the formation of society's moral vision. As you give the best of yourselves in fulfilling your Christian responsibilities, you will also be aware of the important contribution you must make to building a society based on truth and justice. Your service to the sick enables you with great credibility to proclaim to the world the demands and values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to foster hope and renewal of heart. In this respect, your concern with the Catholic identity of your work and of your institutions is not only timely and commendable, it is essential for the success of your ecclesial mission.

You must always see yourselves and your work as part of the Church's life and mission. You are indeed a very special part of the People of God. You and your institutions have precise responsibilities towards the ecclesial community, just as that community has responsibilities towards you.

7. I have come here today to encourage you in your splendid work and to confirm you in your vital apostolate. Dear brothers and sisters: for your dedication to meeting the health care needs of all people, especially the poor, I heartily congratulate you. You embody the legacy of those pioneering women and men religious who selflessly responded to the health care needs of a young and rapidly expanding country by developing an extensive network of clinics, hospitals and nursing homes.

Through prayer and with God's help, may you persevere in your commitment, providing professional assistance and selfless personal care to those who need your services. I pray that your activities and your whole lives will inspire and help all the people of America, working together, to make this society a place of full and absolute respect for the dignity of every person, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. And may God, in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28), sustain you by his grace. God bless you and your families and your contribution to America!



St. Luke, Evangelist and Physician

## Litany of Patron Saints

St. Mary, Health of the Sick,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Raphael the Archangel, "Medicine of God,"	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Luke, Evangelist and Physician,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Camillus de Lellis, patron saint of hospitals, health care workers and the sick,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saints Cosmas and Damian, patron saints of surgeons,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saint Agatha, patron saint of nurses,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. John the Evangelist, patron saint of caregivers,	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, patron saint of fertility, pregnant women, and unborn children,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Lucy, patron saint of the blind,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Peregrine, patron saint of cancer patients,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Dymphna, patron saint of mental health,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Maximilian Kolbe, patron saint of addiction,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Matthias, patron of recovering acoholics,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Catherine of Genoa, patron saint for depression,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Anthony of Padua, patron saint of the elderly,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Teresa Jornet Ibars, patron saint of the abandoned elderly,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Juliana Falconieri, patron saint of the chronically ill,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St John of God, patron saint of heart disease,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Teresa of Avila and St. Gemma Galgani, patron saints of headache sufferers,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Blaise, patron saint of throat ailments,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Timothy, patron saint of stomach disorders,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Rita of Cascia, patron saint of wound healing and loneliness,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St. Stanislaus Kostka, patron saint of broken bones,	<i>Pray for us</i>
St Edmund, St. Anthony the Great, and St. Rocco, patron saints against pandemics, plagues and infectious diseases,	<i>Pray for us</i>

## Prayer of St. John Paul II for All the Suffering

Jesus said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me (2 Cor. 12:9-10).

The sick, the elderly, the handicapped, and the dying teach us that weakness is a creative part of human living, and that suffering can be embraced with no loss of dignity. Without the presence of these people in your midst, you might be tempted to think of health, strength and power as the only important values to be pursued in life.

But the wisdom of Christ and the power of Christ are to be seen in the weakness of those who share His sufferings.

Let us keep the sick and handicapped at the center of our lives. Let us treasure them and recognize with gratitude the debt we owe them. We begin by imagining that we are giving to them; we end by realizing that they have enriched us.

May God bless and comfort all who suffer. And may Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world and healer of the sick, make His light shine through human weakness as a beacon for us and for all people. Amen.



### Consecration of the Parish to Mary

May 29-30, after all Masses at St. Mary Park

Join us as we conclude our celebration of the Jubilee Year of St. John Paul II by renewing the consecration of our parish to Our Lady. Refreshments will be available.

*Bring flowers to present to Mary as a token of your own consecration!*



Disciples  
of the Hearts  
of Jesus and Mary

Visit our St. John Paul II web page at [stmarylitleton.org/stjohnpaul2](http://stmarylitleton.org/stjohnpaul2).