

Pastoral Prayer

May 10, 2020

We must ask again and again, O God, for relief from this pandemic. We must ask again and again, O God, for your healing power to be with the sick and the caregivers. We must ask again and again, O God, for your comfort for the dying and the grieving. Over a quarter million of your children have come to you worldwide because of this disease, O God. Your people weep.

We pray as well for those things we already have, O God, and we give you thanks for them. We thank you for the skill and dedication of medical professionals from physicians and nurses to ward secretaries and custodians. We thank you for the wisdom and compassion of public officials who act promptly to reduce the risk for their citizens. We thank you for the generosity of neighbors asking after the health and the welfare of those about them. We thank you for the love within families and those who will use phones and computers and cameras to see their mothers today and wish them health and happiness.

We thank you for these things among your people, O God, and we pray that there might be more skill, more dedication, more wisdom, more compassion, more generosity, and more love. Inspire and guide these good things. Bring them as well in your own hands.

In this extraordinary time, O God, we pray for ordinary things: children at play, adults at work, people at prayer. Let these things come as swiftly as wisdom and compassion permit. Let these things come, and let us not forget our wisdom and compassion as we rebuild a "normal." May our extraordinary time develop our capacity for extraordinary love for one another.

Yes, this we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.