



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### HIV SERVICES PRAYER SERVICE

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

**Leader:** In 1985, Catholic Charities responded to the growing needs of those in our communities infected and affected by the newly identified HIV epidemic by establishing a HIV Services Program. The program supports the health and well-being of those living with HIV, and helps to strengthen our clients so they can deal with crises and adhere to treatment. Catholic Charities' program provides goods and services not provided (or underprovided) by other agencies, including emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities and emergency housing, adherence support such as transportation assistance, and medication co-pay assistance.

#### **Reader 1:**

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears  
O Good and gracious God,  
You are the God of health and wholeness  
In the plan of Your creation,  
You call those with HIV and AIDS to struggle in their sickness  
and to cling always to the cross of Your Son.  
O God, we are Your servants.

#### **Reader 2:**

Many are now suffering with HIV or AIDS.  
We come before You and ask You,  
if it is Your holy will,  
to take this suffering away from them,  
restore them to health and lead them to know You  
and Your powerful healing love  
of body and spirit.

#### **Reader 3:**

We ask you also,

to be with those of us who nurse Your sick ones.  
We are the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers,  
children, friends of Your suffering people.  
It is so hard for us to see those whom we love suffer.  
You know what it is to suffer.  
Help us to minister in loving care, support, and  
patience for your people who suffer with HIV and AIDS.

**Reader 4:**

Lead us to do whatever it will take to  
eradicate this illness from the lives of those  
who are touched by it,  
both directly and indirectly.  
Trusting in You and the strength of Your Spirit,  
we pray these things in the Name of Jesus.

**ALL: AMEN**

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*Adapted from Prayer by  
National African American Catholic HIV/AIDS Task Force*

**ALL:**

Loving and caring God, thank you, for You call us to love and serve Your people.  
You call us who care for victims of HIV/AIDS to be healing hands in Your hurting world.  
Help us to be compassionate; to be loving; to be a comfort to Your people.  
We ask this in confidence. AMEN