

## Official Prayer of the Congress

God our Father,  
We bless you and give you thanks  
For your Son Jesus, the gift of your love  
For the life of the world.

Watch over your Church as it celebrates in joy and hope  
The 49<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress.

Renew our faith in the Holy Eucharist,  
The memorial of your Son's death and resurrection.

May your Holy Spirit shed its light upon us  
And grant us strength  
To serve as faithful witnesses to the Gospel.

Nourish us with your Word and your Bread of Life  
So that united with Mary,  
The Mother of your Divine Son and Mother of the Church,  
We will bear much fruit  
For the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## The Catholic Women's League of Canada



## Spiritual Program

## Prayer for the sick and dying



# PRAYER FOR THE SICK AND DYING

LEADER: As this new day begins, the God of our longing is present to us in those among us who are sick and dying. Conscious that their image reflects our own limitations and frailties, we carry them in prayer this day. Our remembrance is for them a light of strength in their suffering, a hope of redemption, and a consolation as they go on their journey.

## PRAYER

O God, you are the hope of all who suffer. Sometimes we may seek to ignore the sufferings for the sick, the limits of the human body, and the inevitability of human death. But through grace of memory, we are not capable of completely banishing the presence of disease or the fear of dying that walks with us through life.



You yourself did not shrink from sharing in these painful moments. Jesus, your beloved, touched the sick, share the sorrows of those who mourned, and brought into your divine embrace the full fear of death.

Your presence to those who are sick and dying is a consolation and a strength as they go on a journey from which they cannot turn aside. Give us the strength to do the same for them. Be present to those who serve their needs at bedside and in hospice. Do not let us run in terror. Rather, let us be your reassuring presence.

ALL: We ask this through Christ and the Holy Spirit, with you, One God, for ever and ever. AMEN

## CANTICLE

LEADER: A reading from Isaiah (38:10-14, 17-20)

Once I said: "At the very height of my life I must leave this world and pass through death to an eternity I do not know. No longer shall I know the joy of beholding my sisters and brothers in this world."

My earthly home, like a tent, is struck and taken away from me. Like a spider's web of fine silk threads. My life is cut sharply and abruptly off and whisked away.

Day and night I am given over to fear and suffering. I cry in terror until the break of day. My sickness is a torment, an agony. O God, preserve me!

Indeed, O God, you save my life from final doom when you blot out the memory of my sins. There is no praise for you in eternal death. Fully living gives you glory. May my hope of your salvation be fulfilled and become the glad song of victory.

## SILENCE

## OFFERING

At this beginning of a new day, we place before God the needs of suffering and dying people. God, ever present to us in every need, we offer our prayers for all who suffer, especially the needs of (personal intentions).

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## LEAGUE PRAYER

## CLOSING PRAYER

49th International Eucharistic Congress Prayer (back cover)