



Catholic Archdiocese of Accra

February 1, 2021

**To Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful
Of the Archdiocese**

Dearly Beloved,

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2021

Peace be with you!

In his message for the 29th World Day of the Sick, the Holy Father reflects with us on the theme: 'You have but one teacher and you are all brothers' (Mt 23:8). Pope Francis urges a path of healing grounded in a trusting and interpersonal relationship between the sick and those who care for them. His brief message on this important Day re-awakens in us the spirit of living as practical Christians by our deep-seated love for the sick. His message for practical living and shunning all forms of hypocrisy is worth reflecting on during these difficult times.

On this important occasion, I wish to thank all caregivers, health professionals and essential workers for their hard work and sacrifices. I entrust all to the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As an Archdiocese we would have loved to celebrate the Day by having so many elaborate activities to show our love and care for the sick; unfortunately, the escalating numbers of infected cases and the new variant of the COVID-19 pandemic take a shot at us since we need to respect all the precautionary measures and the protocols.

The above notwithstanding, we have to show concern and love for the sick and all caregivers. I, therefore wish to recommend the following for the celebration of the World Day of the Sick:

- A. The Holy Father's message on World Day of the Sick is to be read by all Priests and Religious so we become more resolute to care for the sick and one another.
- B. On 11th February, all Holy Masses are to be celebrated for the sick and caregivers with special emphasis also on COVID-19 and all frontline workers.
- C. Parishes and Churches should look out for the sick and distribute some relief items to them. This should however, be done under strict COVID-19 protocols.

D. Since there is the likelihood to get a good number of people attending Holy Mass on Sunday, 14th February, 2021, the Priest should pray for all the sick and say a special prayer for all caregivers and health professionals. This could be done by inviting the afore-mentioned to stand at where they sit for the prayers, so they do not move forward to thwart the COVID-19 protocols.

E. There should be a brief talk to educate church members on the new variant of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even as we do our best to celebrate the World Day of the Sick in a profound way, I would like to remind all and sundry to keep to the strict safety protocols. We are reminded not to let down our guard but rather fortify our efforts to fight this pandemic. As shepherds, we should make sure our members follow all the protocols even more than ever. We should bring on board our various COVID-19 team and health professionals so that no stone is left unturned as we battle against this pandemic. The Church should remain a safety place for her members.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all for your prayers for me and to appreciate all caregivers and health professionals.

May Mary, Help of and Health of Christians continue to intercede on behalf of the world and may God hearken to our voice of pleading to end this pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

+ *John B. Kwofie*

Most Rev. John Bonaventure KWOFIE, C.S.Sp,
Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra.

