

Ritual Prayer for the Sick

from Pastoral Care of the Sick

The following prayers "Visits to the Sick" from Pastoral Care of the Sick may be appropriate and helpful for those suffering from addiction. This rite may be celebrated with one person, or with a community.

SONG

SIGN OF THE CROSS

INTRO: Addiction is an illness that affects brain chemistry and requires both a medical and a spiritual response.

We pray today for those burdened with addiction.

We pray that God may strengthen their weakness and restore them to life.

READING Matt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

At that time Jesus answered,
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

RESPONSE

A brief period of silence may be observed after the reading of the word of God. An appropriate psalm or one of the following psalms may be used.

A

(Psalm 102)

R. O Lord, hear my prayer and let my cry come to you.

O Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come to you.
Hide not your face from me
in the day of my distress.
Incline your ear to me;
in the day when I call, answer me speedily. **R.**

He has broken down my strength;
he has cut short my days.
I say: O my God,
Take me not hence in the midst of my days;
through all generations your years endure. **R.**

Let this be written for the generation to come,
and let his future creatures praise the Lord:
“The Lord looked down from his holy height,
from heaven he beheld the earth,
to hear the groaning of the prisoners,
to release those doomed to die.” **R.**

B

(Psalm 27)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? **R.**

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple. **R.**

For he will hide me in his abode
in the day of trouble;
He will conceal me in the shelter of his tent,
he will set me high upon a rock. **R.**

The minister may then give a brief explanation of the reading, applying it to the needs of the sick person and those who are looking after him or her.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The minister introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or similar words:

Now let us offer together the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The minister says a concluding prayer. One of the following may be used.

A

Father,
your Son accepted our sufferings
to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness.
Hear the prayers we offer for those who suffer from addiction.
May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease
realize that they have been chosen to be saints
and know that they are joined to Christ
in his suffering for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

B

All-powerful and ever-living God,
the lasting health of all who believe in you,
hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick;
restore their health,
that they may again offer joyful thanks in your Church.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

C

All-powerful and ever-living God,
we find security in your forgiveness.
Give us serenity and peace of mind;
may we rejoice in your gifts of kindness
and use them always for your glory and our good.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The minister may give a blessing.

All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God,
for you have called us to serve you in love.
Bless all those who struggle with addiction
so that they may bear this illness
in union with your Son's obedient suffering.
Restore them to health,
and lead them to glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CLOSING

If the minister is a priest or deacon, he immediately concludes:

May the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come upon you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

The priest may lay hands upon the sick person's head

A minister who is not a priest or deacon invokes God's blessing and makes the sign of the cross on himself or herself, while saying:

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.

R/. Amen

The minister may then trace the sign of the cross on the sick person's forehead.