



August 16, 2016

To all the faithful of the Diocese of Prince Albert,

A greeting to all as the harvest season begins! Many of us have had a relaxing summer break and we are ready to get back into our regular routines!

Perhaps our routine includes caring for a loved one in one way or another. As our parents and siblings advance in age, they may need more of our time or they may need special care. Maybe, we care for a physically or mentally challenged person. There are so many different ways in which we are called upon to support one another.

Today, I would like to express to you my gratitude and appreciation for all that is being done for those in need. Your ministry truly compliments this Jubilee Year of Mercy. It is not always easy to be present to others in their time of vulnerability and weakness, possibly over long periods of illness, of needing special care, or in the last breath of life, but these are moments of special bonding, possibly storytelling, and of sharing life and love. Just being present with a smile and offering your comforting presence is so important. In their name, I say thank you.

As Pope Francis said, "Each of us, sooner or later, is called to face – at times painfully – frailty and illness, both our own and those of others." The Holy Father explains that too many of us "fail to understand the real meaning of life, which has to do with accepting suffering and limitations." "How many disabled and suffering persons open their hearts to life again as soon as they realize they are loved" and "how much love can well up in a heart simply with a smile." (Pope Francis June 12, 2016 Homily: Jubilee of the Sick and Disabled)

On Sunday, September 11, 2016, we will be celebrating the annual **Compassionate Healers Mass, 11:00am at Sacred Heart Cathedral**. I invite anyone who would like to attend. However, on this special day, I would like to encourage all parishes across the Diocese to take this special opportunity to express appreciation to those in their communities who are caring for others, whether they are family members, friends, volunteers, or staff of caregiving institutions. They are the healing hands of Christ in our world today. Let us also pray for those they are serving, the sick, the elderly, the challenged, or the vulnerable in our midst.

A large part of caring is just being there. We are to love others as they are, for our love offers hope and comfort in a time of need. Let us take this opportunity to celebrate the gift of life and let us especially celebrate those who, through the grace of God, nurture this gift in the life of others.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Albert Thévenot, M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert

'To help our people rediscover Christ, the incarnate word of God because we are all called to holiness'