

Apostolate Letter – February 2010

My Brothers and Sisters

In this Year For Priests it is an opportunity to be aware of their special ministry to the sick.

When I was rector of the Cathedral in Vancouver and was searching information about the first parish priest in Vancouver – Father Patrick Faye – I learned that in 1889 he approached the City Council and obtained permission for priests and ministers to visit patients in the hospital without having to get the permission of the doctor.

In this he showed the concern he had for the sick and the need for the spiritual presence in the hospitals.

Here in Kamloops and, hopefully it is true in other parts of the Diocese, I have seen the great dedication our priests have in responding to the spiritual care of the sick, not only in the hospitals, but also in the homes, the nursing homes and the hospice.

In his letter for the eighteenth “World Day of the Sick” the Holy Father addresses priests and those who are sick with these words:

“I ask you, dear presbyters, to spare no effort in giving them care and comfort. Time spent beside those who are put to the test may bear fruits of grace for all the other dimensions of pastoral care. Lastly I address you, dear sick people and I ask you to pray and to offer your suffering up for priests, so that they may continue to be faithful to their vocation and that their ministry may be rich in spiritual fruits for the benefit of the whole Church.”

(When going to the hospital please be sure to inform your parish priest, so that he can visit you and be sure you receive the Sacraments.)

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INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

General: For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God.

Mission: That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim His Gospel to all peoples.

Diocesan: That the season of Lent may be a time for prayer, self-denial and reconciliation with God and with any brothers and sisters with whom we are not at peace.

God bless you!

+ David J. Monroe
Bishop of Kamloops