

From: "Pontificio Consiglio Op. Sanitari – Segreteria Generale" [Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers (for Health Pastoral Care)]

Date: August 4, 2016 at 10:17:40 AM EDT

To: Marylee Meehan, Member, PCHCW & NACN-USA and 1996-1998 President, NACN-USA

Subject: Letter

Dear Ms Meehan,

I am writing to you to express my personal gratitude and that of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers (for Health Pastoral Care) for the nearness and solidarity that you demonstrated to us on the occasion of the death of our President, Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski. He bore further valuable witness in his determination 'not to descend from the cross' and in his valuing of the salvific aspect of suffering, in full adherence to his, and our, model and founder, St. John Paul II.

Your nearness, kind friend, on an occasion that was so painful for all of us who have lost him in this world, greatly comforted us at the Pontifical Council, the men and women who work with us, and all of those who are near to us, and you confirmed that sense of being a great family that unites health-care workers, both professionals and volunteers, and people who suffer in all countries and in the five continents of the world.

A vast and capillary presence characterises us and will enable us, on the occasion of the thirtieth day after his death, **12 August next**, to remember him at various levels: from a personal level to the level of associations and institutions, and from a parish level to a diocesan level. We will thus have an opportunity to commemorate him with faith and at the same time with the awareness that his role as a pastor and his work will be remembered everywhere in union of prayer, as in a real family in which feelings do not suffer from the constraints imposed by space and time and never grow weak.

Continuing with the commitment to carry on with what was planned for this year by Archbishop Zimowski, who attached great importance to the jubilee year that is now underway because pastoral care in health is a privileged implementation of Mercy, I take this opportunity to remind you that the **Jubilee for Volunteers and Workers of Mercy will be celebrated on 4 September 2016**. It will, therefore, be an appointment for health-care workers after the Jubilee of the Sick and the Disabled which was celebrated on 12 June of this year. It will also be held, and this is certainly no accident, at the same time as the canonisation of the Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta – an authentic witness to helping the poorest and the marginalised and a personification of the Good Samaritan who bends down before a person he does not know, helps them, and attends to their needs.

On that date, it will thus be possible to emphasise the nearness of Mother Teresa who, an exemplary figure for health-care workers, was also in contact with our Pontifical Council and with its first President, Cardinal Fiorenzo Angelini. This will certainly be an opportunity to find the strength to review our lives and strive increasingly to adhere to Christ, continuing, with ever greater impetus, to carry out his mandate: *Euntes docete et curate infirmos*.

For that matter, it was the life and the mission of this future saint that led the much lamented Archbishop Zimowski to announce during the twenty-fourth World Day of the Sick – held in February of this year in Nazareth and other places of the Holy Land – that the next solemn edition of the World Day of the Sick, programmed for **2019**, will take place in India, and more specifically in **Calcutta**.

Once again thanking you for the nearness that you demonstrated to us on the occasion of the death of our Archbishop, I entrust to the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Salus infirmorum*, all the initiatives that you, and we, have planned.

In communion of prayer.

Msgr. Jean-Marie Mupendawatu
Secretary of Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers
(for Health Pastoral Care)