



Scripture

“As a child has rest in its mother’s arms, even so my soul.” (Psalm 130 (131) from the Breviary

“Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” Romans 12:12 from the Breviary.

Catechism

“Jesus came in order to show God’s love. He often did this in places where we feel especially threatened: in the weakening of our life through sickness. God wants us to become well in body and soul and, therefore, to believe and to acknowledge the coming of God’s kingdom.” YOUCAT art. 241

Comment

Illness is challenging at all times, but especially in times of pandemic as well as when sickness occurs at a very young age, when children may well lack the emotional resilience of more mature patients. Support at this time then becomes paramount. The way society treats the vulnerable, such as the sick and the young, can show light on how it operates as a society. The contrast between the forced euthanasia policies of the Nazis in WWII and Jesus’ compassion for Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:21-43) and the cure of the Syro-Phoenician woman’s daughter (Matthew 15:21-28) could not be greater.

Organisation of the month

Having seen advertisements for the Teenage Cancer Trust, I took a look at their website. I was shocked to learn that “every day, seven young people between 13-24 are told ‘you have cancer’”. This sober statistic has an even greater impact when one considers that a diagnosis of cancer is upsetting for all people or all ages, but particularly for the young who will need extra emotional support at such a tender age.

Please look at the Teenage Cancer Trust’s website at www.teenagecancertrust.org for more information and ways in which you can support their mission.

Think, Pray, Act

Pray: that God the Father, through the death and Resurrection of His Son Our Lord Jesus Christ may, by the Holy Spirit, fill you with love and compassion.

Think: How has cancer affected you, your loved ones or those you know? What support has been there?

Act: Visit www.teenagecancertrust.org for more information about how you can help, including ways in which to donate.

“Do as much as you can. God will do what we ourselves cannot do.” St. John Bosco, Letter to Cagliero, November 13th 1875