

## Acting for Health Care as a basic human right

Short Bible passages

**Matthew 25:35–36, NAB** For I was...ill and you cared for me

**1 COR 12:20-22, 25.** But as it is there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand “I do not need you” nor again the head to the feet, I do not need you. Indeed the parts of the body that seem to be the weaker are all the more necessary. So that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another.

**Luke 5: 12-13** Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where he was, and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, “Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean”. Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do will it. Be made clean”

**Matt 8:16.** When it was evening, they brought him many who were possessed by demons and he drove out all the spirits by a word, and cured all the sick.”

**Lk 10:36-37.** Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim? He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy,” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

**Deut 7:9.** Understand then, that the Lord, your God, is God indeed, the faithful God who keeps his merciful covenant down to the thousandth generation towards those who love him and keep his commandments.

### Michigan Catholic Conference.

The importance of health care resonates with all Michiganders. Unfortunately, too many low-income families are forced to make tough decisions between financial resources and accessing proper care. Such obstacles may include a lack of local providers, transportation issues, and the rising cost of care and prescriptions. The Church teaches that access to health care is a basic human right that flows from the dignity of the human person. Special consideration should be given to the voices of the poor, uninsured, unemployed, and other vulnerable populations. When considering health care legislation, MCC supports:

- Protection of health coverage, including preventative care, for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

- Appropriate Medicaid funding to ensure adequate coverage for recipients and payments to providers.
- Opposition to legislation that threatens the mission of institutional and individual faith-based providers.
- Policies that ensure access and adequate resources for physical and behavioral health care, including telemedicine and treatment for addictions and substance abuse.<sup>1</sup>

### **Quotes from the popes or councils**

**Pope Francis** 5/16/2016. Quote of the day- “Health is not a consumer good but a universal right, so access to health services cannot be a privilege”

**Pope Benedict** 2010. “Health justice should be among the priorities of governments and international institutions, a true distributive justice that guarantees to all, on the basis of objective needs, adequate care”. 25th international Conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry

**Pope Benedict** - US Catholic -Feb 2011 Called for “renewed evangelization of the church’s social doctrine”, reminding lay people that they have “the immediate task of working for a just social order”. Health care is a moral responsibility of government and an “inalienable right” regardless of social and economic status or ability to pay.

**Pope John Paul II**-“I likewise urge the responsible international bodies to commit themselves to drawing up effective legal guarantees to ensure that the health of those who do not have a voice will be promoted in its entirety and that the world of health care will be imbued with the logic of solidarity and charity rather than with dynamics of profit.” International Health-Care conference 1997

**Pope John Paul II** also established World Day of the Sick

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<sup>1</sup> [Health Care | Michigan Catholic Conference \(micatholic.org\)](https://micatholic.org) accessed 9 20 22