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Video Message of the Holy Father with the prayer intention for the month of February, disseminated via the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The following is the text of the Pope's video with the prayer intention for the month of February, disseminated via the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, on the theme: *Let us pray that the terminally ill and their families always receive the necessary medical and human care and assistance:*

Video Message of the Holy Father

When some people talk about terminal illnesses, there are two words they often confuse: incurable and un-*carable*. But they are not the same.

Even when little chance for a cure exists, every sick person has the right to medical, psychological, spiritual and human assistance.

Sometimes they can't talk; sometimes we think they don't recognize us. But if we take them by the hand, we know they are relating with us.

Healing is not always possible, but we can always care for the sick person, caress them.

Saint John Paul II used to say, "cure if it is possible; always take care."

And this is where palliative care comes in. It guarantees the patient not only medical attention, but also human assistance and closeness.

Families should not be left alone in these difficult moments.

Their role is decisive. They need access to adequate means so as to provide appropriate physical, spiritual and social support.

Let us pray that the terminally ill and their families always receive the necessary medical and human care and assistance.
