



February 2026

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Pope's Prayer USA Video: popesprayerusa.net

Pope Video: thepopevideo.org

Reflection by *Bridget and Mark Bullio*

Bridget and Mark Bullio live in the Midwest with their five children.

I'll never forget that first seizure. I turned around to find my sweet baby - who just seconds before was happily playing on the floor - folded in half, jerking, and turning blue. That was the first of countless seizures.

For our family, this month's intention is deeply personal. Our ten-year-old daughter Anna suffers from Dravet Syndrome, a rare, severe, and lifelong form of epilepsy. Her first seizures began when she was just six months old, setting us on a road marked by deep uncertainty, but also by astonishing grace and love.

Dravet Syndrome is more than just seizures. It touches nearly every part of daily life. Anna has developed more slowly than her peers, deals with restricted mobility, and struggles with limited communication. Even her body temperature and sleep are affected.

Children like Anna require constant care and vigilance. Yet through every challenge, Anna radiates joy, courage, and peace. She is a light to everyone she meets. Next to the sacraments, Anna is the greatest source of grace for our family. Through the gift of Anna, we have learned so much: patience, compassion, and the strength that comes from surrendering everything to God. In short, Anna has taught us the way of trust and love.

As we join Pope Leo in prayer this month, may we hold all children with incurable diseases close to our hearts. May we honor their dignity, uplift their families, and allow their lives to remind us that every person—no matter their abilities—is willed, loved, and necessary; each one reveals something sacred about the heart of God.

[Leader] Daily offering prayer:

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day

in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.
I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:
the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians.
I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer,
and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

February: For children with incurable diseases

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Grace: We pray for the grace to see Christ present in every child who suffers, and to stand with their families in compassion, hope, and unwavering love.

[Reader 1] Scripture: Matthew 19: 14 - "Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

[Reader 3] Quote: "Just as the Resurrection transformed Christ's wounds into a source of healing and salvation, so for every sick person the light of the risen Christ is a confirmation that the way of fidelity to God can triumph in the gift of self until the Cross and can transform illness itself into a source of joy and resurrection."- St. Pope John Paul II, FOR THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, August 6th, 1999

[Leader] Reflection questions:

Where in your own life have you encountered a kind of suffering that invited you to trust God more deeply?

How does Anna's joy, courage, and peace, despite her illness, help you see the truth of Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me," and recognize the presence of Christ in those who are most fragile?

St. John Paul II reminds us that Christ's Resurrection transforms suffering into a source of new life. How might God be inviting you this month to stand beside families with sick children, offering your presence, compassion, or prayer as a sign of that hope?