

## Self-giving God



Self-giving God,  
calling us to tread the path of suffering,  
yet standing by us in every place of sacrifice,  
we praise you for the courage and faithfulness  
of unknown, unrecognized, unexceptional people  
who exercise a ministry of extraordinary care.

Hear our prayers for ...  
single parents struggling to make ends meet on low wages or inadequate  
benefits, with no time or money for themselves, stretched to breaking  
point by trying to fulfil two roles;  
unmarried sons and daughters, who have lost their youth and middle years  
in looking after demanding parents, whose own chance of retirement  
may be darkened by the shadow of senility;  
parents exhausted and grown old before their time from the daily strain of  
caring for a child with special emotional or physical needs;  
the families of people who suffer from manic depression, schizophrenia, or  
other mental illness, whose own happiness is defined by dramatic mood  
swings or rationed by unpredictable behaviour.

Watch with them when they get no sleep.  
Calm them when their patience snaps  
and they lash out with hand or tongue.  
Strengthen them when they feel that they can't carry on.  
Empower them to claim the resources and respect they deserve.

Self-giving God, calling us to tread the path of suffering,  
yet standing by us in every place of sacrifice,  
by these prayers and the actions which flow from them  
may we begin to share the cost of their caring  
and celebrate their selfless offering of love.