# Prayer of a Person in Constant Pain 1

*By David Sparks, United Church of Canada minister, and Sheila Noyes, former co-president of Dying with Dignity Canada*

Loving God,

You know the pain I am experiencing. You know *how it throbs and pulsates*; you know that when I am in pain I can hardly think of anything else; you know how I can be bad-tempered, unreasonable, even uncaring to those I love; you know how my drugs will not always take the pain away. I want this *dull/sharp* pain to end, Loving God, I want it so much to end.

I thank you for those who are close to me, for *name, name, and name.* They support and encourage me. They bring me back to the place where pain cannot dominate. I rejoice in their presence.

I thank you for the doctors and nurses who come to me. I am glad I can share my feelings about this pain and the central place it holds in my life right now.

I give thanks that they give me drugs to blur the pain and drugs that make me sleep so I avoid the pain. Bless them in all their healing work, and strengthen them when the pressure of healing and caring work gets them down.

I would like to feel hopeful, I would like to come to the place where I get my joy in living back, but I know there is no certainty of that happening. I will continue with you, Compassionate God, as I exist from day to day.

You will continue with me, in pain and in relief from pain,
in the presence of loved ones and when I am on my own.

You will continue with me at the centre of this testing life,
and you will be there if the pain becomes less in moments of joy and relief.

You will give me insight to know when the right choice is death, to end this horrendous existence.

I pray in the name of friend-Jesus who suffered and died in agony. Amen