



Current Issues in Prayer

July 2018

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:

That priests, who experience fatigue and loneliness in their pastoral work, may find help and comfort in their intimacy with the Lord and in their friendship with their brother priests.



Getting started:

Choose a comfortable place. Try to recollect yourself in the presence of God and thank Him for those priests who tirelessly work to support us in our spirituality.



Short story:

Fr Robert had been a priest for fifteen years and recently he started to abandon some habits, such as paying a visit to the Holy Sacrament every evening, visiting old people and finding the time for personal prayer. He was spending too much time on the computer which made him feel spiritual dryness. Moreover his friend Ronnie who was ordained priest a year ahead of him, had left after starting a relationship with a member of the parish choir. This had shaken Fr. Robert very badly, making him realise that his vocation was in jeopardy. He had already lost most of his enthusiasm for Jesus. He needed something to inspire him again.



Six months passed and thanks to God, all the insecurities Fr. Robert had were over. This late evening, Fr Robert was humming *When I look into Your Holiness*. He kept his voice low not to wake up his sister who had gone to sleep early. Fr. Robert felt very happy and serene. He could not believe that six months ago he was feeling lost, tired and depressed. He was grateful to God for meeting a group of six priests during a retreat, who like him were going through a hard time. They had decided to support and encourage each other to strengthen their personal relationship with Jesus. They had also asked Fr Manuel, who had given the retreat, to accompany them in this part of their spiritual journey. From that day onwards Fr. Robert had prayed intimately to Jesus. This helped him overcome his doubts and feel enthusiastic again. Fr. Robert could now face his apostolic work with motivation and strength.



Time to reflect:

Could it be that there are some priests that I know, maybe even Maltese, who might feel too tired working alone against the current?

Could it be that the lack of new vocations is disheartening priests who are under pressure with lack of time and energy to complete all the duties they wish to fulfil?



Let us pray:

Father, we ask you to help those priests who are going through spiritual dryness so that they will find courage to turn to you and pray intimately to you. Help them to become more enthusiastic and to find shelter and courage in you, Lord.



Inspiration:

Isolation and Solitude are not synonyms: In isolation I have no one but myself. In solitude I find God.



Hands on:

I try to find some time to give a helping hand in a priest's pastoral duties.