



Current Issues in Prayer

January 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.



Getting started:

I sit down in a comfortable place and put aside my daily worries and preoccupations as I become aware of God's presence.



Short story:

Born in Argentina, Franco began experimenting with drugs when he was 12, because he was curious and had fallen in with likeminded friends. This is not an uncommon story in South America where youths become victims of drugs. Trying to run away from his lifestyle, Franco decided to go to Uruguay in search of a fresh start. But it fell apart just two weeks after he arrived, when Uruguayan customs intercepted a package of ecstasy pills that Franco had posted to himself from Argentina.



Facing a jail term, he phoned a friend back in Argentina who promised she would pray for him and suggested he do the same. Franco thought this was crazy but decided to try it. He got down beside his bed and said, "I don't believe that there is a God, but if You're real then show me and I'll believe in you". Out on bail, Franco met two female hitchhikers and things changed forever. The women took him out for lunch, then to church, and allowed him to move in to their home. "That was when I thought there was maybe something to this because why would two complete strangers do that?" Franco says that discovering his faith was fast, and the change immediate. Drugs suddenly lost all appeal. He threw all the substances that he had into the sea. Franco got a job working with drug and alcohol addicts, where he was able to draw on his own experience to try to help others to quit.



Time to reflect:

Am I strong enough to stop from what I am doing if I know it does not serve Jesus right?
If only I remember that our God will be with us along the way...carrying us through each time we want to turn back to him.



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, I pray that all youths live their lives in the service of others and become a witness to the joy of the Gospel reflecting your love for us all.



Inspiration:

When you turn to God you discover He has been facing you all the time. *Zig Ziglar*



Hands on:

I think about my present situation and take note about situations in my life that I am not comfortable with. I pray to Jesus for His guidance and I try to respond to His call and to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world, in my everyday life by helping others.