



Current Issues in Prayer

September 2018

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

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.



Getting started:

Choose a comfortable place. Try to recollect yourself in the presence of God and thank Him for those people who tirelessly work to educate our younger generations.



Short story:

Kabuto Raloz taught his nephew Pendo how to lay tiles. However there was no work for tile layers in the village. So Pendo had to walk ten kilometres every day to go to the city to find work. He would sit down together with a group of youngsters who like him, were waiting for someone to give them a job. Pendo told one of the youngsters how much he wished that he had gone to school when he was a child. He argued that education would have given him a secure job and pulled him out of poverty. However, the young man beside him challenged him saying that it would not have made a difference. "Look at that young lady on the other side of the street... She is a graduate and she is unemployed. She is selling mobile phones in the streets with the hope of earning some money. A month ago she decided to further her studies in the evening that would help her compete for a job. So you can imagine how she felt when, on the first day of class, she discovered that all her 45 classmates were in the same boat. If that's not disheartening enough, think about the risk she put herself into when she borrowed US\$1,600 to pay for the tuition fees!" Pendo felt angry and frustrated because in his country it did not matter how hard you worked or how far you studied. Unemployment was rife. Young people with education and energy spent their precious time idling about. They had given up hope of having a future. Pendo thought about life in Europe where young people his age could easily redeem their hard work and sacrifices in fruitful jobs that helped them grow their talents and develop their potentials.



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Time to reflect:

How do developed countries help Africa? Is this aid translated into projects that generate employment for youths? Do we truly care about empowering African nations to safeguard their right to study and to create a strong and sustainable economy?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, please enlighten the leaders of African countries so that they will find real and effective solutions so that youths will have access to education and work in their own countries.



Inspiration:

Work is fundamental for man's dignity.

Pope Francis



Hands on:

Many young Africans may have a high level of education but end up doing jobs which they are overqualified for. I challenge myself to appreciate the background of these youths. I ask myself whether these people are being enabled to show their true talents.