



Current Issues in Prayer

August 2017

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:

That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.



Getting started:

I find a quiet place and a comfortable position to prepare myself for prayer. I take a deep breath while I realise that God is looking lovingly at me and at those around me.



Short story:

In the Black Rock Desert in Nevada, a festival named "Burning Man Festival" is organised annually. Thousand of people attend this celebration of creativity. Each year, many works of art are exhibited in this festival. In the 2016 edition, one of the most inspiring work of art was 'Love', by sculptor Ukren Alexander Milov. This sculpture is made up of two big figures of the human figure, back to back and they are made from steel rods. In each figure, there is a figure of a child with his hands outstretched trying to reach the other's hands. During the festival, the children's figures were lit at sunset. Milov explains that this sculpture "demonstrates a conflict between a man and a woman as well as the outer and inner expression of human nature. Their inner selves are executed in the form of transparent children, who are holding out their hands through the grating. As it's getting dark (night falls) the children start to shine. This shining is a symbol of purity and sincerity that brings people together and gives a chance of making up when the dark time arrives." This artist is a good example of how a person uses his talents and ability to help us reflect on the surrounding creation.



(Adapted from <http://www.boredpanda.com/burning-man-festival-adults-babies-love-aleksandr-milov-ukraine/>)



Time to reflect:

Did you ever look at art as a way in which to pass on a message about the beauty of creation, including the human creation? Do I try to understand the beauty of nature through works of art?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord , I pray that you inspire artists with innovative ideas so that the beauty of creation will be seen through their art.



Inspiration:

The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.

Aristotle



Hands on:

I try to find works of art that have a message to pass on. Perhaps I can read about the interpretations of these works of art as expressed by different people.