



Current Issues in Prayer

February 2017

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

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.



Getting started:

I find a quiet place and a comfortable position. I ask the Lord that my prayer takes me into realities where people are unjustly suffering the pain of poverty, asylum seeking and social marginalisation.



Short story:

Finn is a young man who dreams of a career as a musician. He has just moved in the city with the hope of having a fresh start for a better life. Music is his passion, but finding a job to support him is a big challenge. Finding friends had always been difficult, ever since he was a schoolboy. His background does not help as everyone in his village knows him as the son of an alcoholic with a mother who has mental health difficulties.

As Finn struggles not to lose hope of getting over his sad childhood memories, he fears that life away from his parents' troubles will not be much different. One evening he thought he could beat the loneliness by drinking some cans of strong lager in the company of casual people he met in the streets. They wanted him to join them live the rough life on the streets. Although Finn thought that this was no solution for his difficulties, a few days later, he decided to take his guitar and play for his new friends. With interest and curiosity he listened to the life stories that each one of the guys narrated. He realised that they shared the same sort of unhappiness which strongly connected him to these people. That night he started to change his mind...

At dawn, he was still asleep, half drunk on the pavement. The city at that hour was damp, cold and deserted.



Time to reflect:

Seems like the homeless alcoholic guys were the only friends Finn had. Why?

Do I have relationships with those who come from a background of poverty or who are marginalized in the community I live in? If so, how am I involved with them? Do I actively seek to understand them?

Do I give generously? Am I aware of whether or not my generosity is helping or hurting?

After reading Finn's story, how has my perspective changed?



Let us pray:

Father, remind me that the poor and the marginalised are my brothers and sisters in Christ. Give me a compassionate heart to show brotherly love so I can truly help them to experience your infinite love



Inspiration:

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

Desmond Tutu



Hands on:

Make a plan. Identify a marginalized person in your community and find a way to show him that he is welcome in the community. Smile, invite him for a coffee and have a little chat regularly. Do not fear showing yourself in his/her company.