



# Current Issues in Prayer

January 2017

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

**“That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity”.**



## Getting started:

Choose a comfortable place where I can recollect myself in the presence of God For a few moments, I concentrate on my breathing ... in and ... out. Now, gently, I repeat five times Our Lord’s words: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right”



## Short story:

James Crawford lives in Liverpool. He invited Stephen Evans, who goes to the same Catholic school to join the Pope’s World Prayer Network. At first Stephen was not interested in this movement, thinking that this was something for the elderly. Despite this, he gave it a try and attended the youth group within the Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM). Gradually he began to take things seriously. Stephen realized that becoming a committed member meant that he would have to find ways of living out the challenges of humanity as presented in the monthly intentions of the Pope. In January 2016, Stephen decided to do something to live out the Pope’s prayer intentions for the month, a prayer that called for sincere dialogue between people of different religions that results in fruitful peace and justice. He soon got to know that within his community a Protestant family was having difficulties following the separation of the parents. Mark, one of the three children, was the same age as Stephen. Unfortunately, Mark made friends with bad company. Stephen felt that he had to do something to help Mark. He talked to his parents knowing that the mothers knew each other because they worked in the same company. They decided to support this family so Stephen’s mother invited the family for a barbeque. Stephen made this an opportunity to invite Mark to join him in basketball. Soon they became very good friends, and Mark sometimes attended the EYM meetings with him. Mark’s mother was overjoyed when it became clear that Mark was no longer part of the wrong company of friends. She was so appreciative of the support that Stephen’s family was giving them.



## Time to reflect:

What a better place the world would be, if we were to support each other without considering our differences. In this way, dialogue will take place which will help to minimize the differences.



## Let us pray:

Dear God, let there be peace and a spirit of fraternity between people who profess different religions.



## Inspiration:

"Every time the pursuit of our religious tradition inspires us to give a service to society which is more committed, more generous and more disinterested, then we will be utilizing and nurturing our religious freedom in an authentic manner." *Pope Francis*



## Hands on:

Pray that there will be unity among the different religions. Be committed to support people of different religions when they are facing the difficulties in their daily lives.