



# Current Issues in Prayer

May 2017

Welcome! Pope Francis invites us to come together and pray:

**That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace.**



## Getting started:

Take a few slow breaths. Open up yourself to feel God's presence. As you enter this time of prayerful reflection, ask for God's grace – that Christians in Africa will be the prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace.



## Short story:

Rev. Joseph G. Healey, who lives in Nairobi Kenya, recounts this experience:

One day my pick-up van broke down on the road from Maswa to Bariadi in Western Tanzania. After I waited for half an hour, a big commercial truck stopped and the driver, named Musa, kindly towed my vehicle to the next town. This was not an uncommon occurrence of generosity on the bumpy roads of this huge country. On our way to town, Musa and I had a chat about religion. I discovered that Musa was a Muslim who belonged to the Nyamwezi ethnic group.



Baobab tree

Inadvertently, the topic of our conversation turned on the tensions between Christians and Muslims in Tanzania. Musa wanted me to know his opinion about it. He argued: *“There is only one God. God is like a large Baobab tree with different branches that represent the different religions of Islam, Christianity, African religion, and so forth. These branches are part of the same family of God - so we should work together.”* Musa taught me a wonderful African metaphor, that all people of faith should dialogue and work together for justice, peace and reconciliation to reign between us irrespective of who we are and where we come from.

Story adapted from: <http://www.afriprov.org/african-stories-by-season/10-christian-values/55-god-is-like-a-large-baobab-tree.html>



## Time to reflect:

How are we, as Christians, living the experience of having persons of different faiths/beliefs in our country?

Are we experiencing justice, peace and reconciliation between us?



## Let us pray:

Dear Father, grant us unity with peoples of different faiths and may we become instruments of merciful reconciliation, justice and peace. Grant that we, as Christians, be your witnesses by every little action, wherever we are all over the world.



## Inspiration:

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop”

*Mother Teresa.*



## Hands on:

I offer a smile or a helping hand whenever I encounter a person - be it in the street, in a shop, in a meeting or at work ... - who embraces a different faith or belief.