



Current Issues in Prayer

September 2017

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:
That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.



Getting started:

I find a quiet place and I try to calm down from the rush of my daily life. I quieten down and feel God's presence. I pray that He will guide me to be always ready to answer his call and to bless the Christian community that I belong to.



Short story:

Mary was feeling helpless. She had just arrived home from hospital where she had visited her husband Charles, who was still in ITU. Charles had fallen the height of two storeys while he was working on a building site. Mary's sister, who had been giving a helping hand, had now gone home to her family.



Exhausted from juggling hospital visits, housework and the upbringing of two children, Mary was doing the laundry when the door bell rang. She did not feel like speaking to anyone and reluctantly opened the door. It was Fr. Carm, the parish priest who came to console her and give her words of courage to go on. He gave her some money that was given to him by a benefactor to help a needy family. Fr. Carm promised her that he would call for help from members of the parish community. True to his word, Doris and Kate came over to give Mary a helping hand. Doris brought her a pot of warm food and Kate offered to wash the clothes for her. They took turns to stay with the children while Mary visited Charles in hospital. Every morning, they took the children to school and to catechism lessons in the evenings.

Mary continued to receive help till the day Charles recovered and was able to go back to work. This constant support helped Mary's family cope with all the hardship and to get back on its feet.



Time to reflect:

Am I aware that there are persons living in my community who are going through hard times? Do I offer help when I find out that someone needs support?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, please guide our community so that we will be ready to offer help and support to those families who are poor or emarginalised in our parish.



Inspiration:

An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.

Pope Francis - *Evangelii Gaudium*



Hands on:

I look around me and try to find someone who is going through hard times. I try to think of ways how I can be of help. I encourage others so that they too will give a helping hand to those in need.