



Current Issues in Prayer

September 2016

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:
That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the person at the centre.



Getting started:

Find a quiet place and take a few moments to stop and reflect. Think about yourself, your family and your friends. Think of those you find easy to be with or who are somehow special. Then think of some others whom you find more difficult to be with or whom you might consider difficult or inferior. Then imagine how Jesus would look upon these people were he to be instead of you. Would he make any distinctions between people, or would he treat everyone as equally important?



Short story:

All who know Rose and Evan would attest that their daughter Maria is their life and soul. Maria, 20 years old, is the youngest of their three children and was born with a severe disability. Rose and Evan are now in their fifties. Maria is totally dependent on them and needs constant care. She is blind and non-communicative, wheelchair bound, incontinent and needs to be tube-fed. This makes her susceptible to infections and complications.



Caring for their daughter is tiring and leaves them with very little time for themselves. However, Rose and Evan sincerely would feel lost without their Maria and rarely go anywhere without her. Even though normal communication with Maria is impossible, Evan and Rose have learnt how to understand what her needs are from her gestures and body language. They treat her with great respect and dignity and do their utmost to keep their beloved daughter comfortable and happy.

It has often been said among their neighbours that this family ought to be promoted as exemplary. To quote one comment: "We would have great peace of mind were society to occupy itself first and foremost with caring for each individual, helping all to stand on their own feet and know themselves to be loved and significant."



Time to reflect:

Rose and Evan have done an admirable job of caring for their daughter despite the challenges that they faced. Do you know of people who are in similar situations?



Let us pray:

God help me understand that society grows strong when what we strive for is not to multiply our wealth, but when we give care and attention to others.



Inspiration:

"Every soul is beautiful and precious; is worthy of dignity and respect, and deserving of peace, joy and love." (Bryant McGill)



Hands on:

Think about your present attitude to the people you encounter. Is there somebody whom you are treating with disrespect? Is there somebody whom you treat as being inferior? Keeping in mind that this person is the son/daughter of God and that for God everybody is equally important, what can you do to improve your actions?