



Current Issues in Prayer

November 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.



Getting started:

After finding a comfortable position, I take a few deep breaths and I try to eliminate all thoughts from my mind and I try to enter in the presence of the God. While I thank God for all the graces that I have received today, I take some time to think of those persons who were wounded or who lost their lives in the violent attacks that have taken place in the Near East.



Short story:

Magda Haroun is the head of the Jewish community in Egypt. In an interview with Al-Hurra TV, she said that she is married to a Catholic man and her two daughters are Muslims. Magda stressed that her family live peacefully with each other under one roof and lead a rather quiet life. "I was married to a Muslim man when I had my two Muslim daughters. Then, my second marriage was to a Catholic man. He raised my two daughters." She also said that her family often discuss matters related to religion so that they know more about each other. She added that they firmly believe in coexistence.



"I taught my daughters to respect human beings for who they are. We celebrate all the religious occasions. We celebrate Jewish occasions with my mother. We attend the prayers at the church on December 24, which is Christmas Eve, and we celebrate Ramadan as well," Magda continued.

Her close relatives are not usually surprised by her family. However, people who are not close to the family are often surprised by how they are living together despite their different religions. Magda Haroun affirms, "Our creator is only one, and if he wanted us to have the same beliefs, he would have done that."



Time to reflect:

Have I ever passed a comment or ridiculed someone because of the way he prays or says the rosary, or because he hears mass daily and prays often?

Have I ever ridiculed the beliefs of someone who belongs to a different religion?



Let us pray:

Lord grant me the courage to try and find that which unites us rather than which divides us when I meet someone who has different beliefs from me.



Inspiration:

We may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race.

Kofi Annan



Hands on:

I try to learn about the different religions, so that I will remove any prejudices against persons who belong to a different religion.