



Current Issues in Prayer

May 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.



Getting started:

I find a comfortable place and try to feel God's presence within me. I thank God for all the persons in my life who forgave me when I failed them.



Short story:

In 2014, a special correspondent in the Central African Republic met a priest who sheltered hundreds of Muslim refugees in his church as sectarian violence raged throughout the weekend in the town of Boali, northwest of the capital Bangui.

Muslim families fleeing south towards the capital were targeted by armed members of the anti-balaka Christian militias, forcing them to head back to Boali and ask French troops for protection.

The sight of anti-Balaka militiamen chasing local Muslims with knives and machetes prompted Fr Xavier Fagba, to offer the Muslims shelter inside his church. He said, "I am not going to let anyone hurt the people inside my church, it doesn't matter whether they are Christians or Muslims.". Besides he also went out, door to door, bringing the rest to his parish. He added: "I didn't have a plan. I was just thinking here are my brothers in difficulty. They needed help. I went to get them as a pastor and as a Christian. I did it in the name of my faith."



One glimmer of hope in the Central African Republic, is the fact that a group of Muslim, Catholic, and Protestant leaders have banded together to remind people that their common faith, based on Abrahamic teachings, is one of peace. These clergy have also tried to persuade the militias to disarm, and they have met with the local UN mission to coordinate efforts.



Time to reflect:

I think of all the millions of people who are displaced or who are facing some kind of violence because of the sectarian divisions that exist in their country. I offer my prayers and the hardship that I go through for their need.



Let us pray:

Lord, you are the king of peace. Help us to be a sign of hope and unity wherever we are and so that we will always say "no" to any form of hatred, revenge or violence.



Inspiration:

To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care enough and be there.

Anonymous



Hands on:

In my daily life, I meet many people of different cultures, race or religion. I smile at them and greet them and offer my services if they need help.