



Current Issues in Prayer

December 2018

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.



Getting started:

I find a quiet place and I try to calm down from the hustle and bustle of the day. I enter in the Lord's presence and ask him to help me so that I will be always ready to answer his calling.



Short story:

Mary was feeling very anxious and helpless. She couldn't believe that both her son and her daughter were living in these situations. Karl got married last year and only last month announced that he was separating from Sylvia. More shocking for Mary was the news that he was already in a relationship with another woman. How could their marriage have failed within a year? Mary's other child Amanda had lately been going out with a separated man. Mary felt powerless.



This went against the beliefs and values that she brought up her children with. She prayed continuously, but she was feeling that her prayers were futile. To make matters worse, yesterday Amanda told her that she was pregnant and planning to go live with Jonathan. Mary felt overwhelmed. How was she going to deal with these situations? She knew she could not abandon her children because after all they were her son and daughter whom she loved so dearly.

Mary decided to talk things over with Fr William who was a young, hardworking priest. Sobbing, she opened her heart to him. Fr William was very understanding and in a reassuring voice consoled Mary with comforting words. "I am sure that you love your son and daughter dearly and that you would like to change their life stories. But the only thing you can do is pray for them." He reflected on the life of Jesus... "What did He do when he met people who were living in difficult and sinful situations? How did he treat the sinful woman who washed his feet with her tears, or Zaccheus, the corrupt tax collector who robbed his own people? Jesus handled these people with mercy and love. You might not agree with the way your children are living, but who will listen to them and give them support when they most need it, if not their mother". Mary returned home relieved and at peace realising she had a renewed mission as a loving mother.



Time to reflect:

How do I react when I face situations like Mary's? Do I judge the persons or do I try to understand the difficulties that they are going through with love and without judgement?



Let us pray:

Lord, may I be a true witness of my faith and of your love in my daily life. May I be able to communicate your message of love and mercy to all the people that I meet.



Inspiration:

An evangelising community gets involved in 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 try to find someone who feels withdrawn and distanced from the Church's teachings. I will try to be a witness to him of God's love by word and actions.