

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:

**That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.**



## Getting started:

I get comfortable and calm. For a few minutes, I concentrate on my breathing, and listen to the sounds around me. I thank God for this time of reflection.



## Short story:

Vanessa is an eighteen-year-old student who has difficulties with reading and writing. Consequently, she never managed to pass the language exams, which were prerequisites to read for a law degree at University. This situation created a lot of conflict. Vanessa's parents were lawyers themselves and refused to accept the reality of their daughter. This made the student become very depressed, to an extent that she became suicidal. Seeing their daughter in such a state broke her parents' heart.

Still refusing to accept the fact that Vanessa was not able to read for a law degree, her parents decided to bribe the University. Consequently, the student got the necessary certificates and entered the course that her parents wished for. The money bought the results necessary for entry to University, but not the happiness and the sense of accomplishment that Vanessa deserved.

The parents knew that what they did was wrong, but they justified their actions with the belief that they guided their daughter in the right direction. After all it was their social standing that mattered the most to them and not their daughter's serenity.



## Time to reflect:

“Blessed are those who thirst for justice...” How truly do I believe in justice and how far am I ready to go for the pursuit of justice? Is the person without principles who conveniently twists the truth, building or breaking a just and honest society?



## Let us pray:

Dear Lord, may those who have power and wealth be enlightened by the gospel. May they stand firm against the temptation to bend the truth to suit their aims and objectives.



## Inspiration:

It is not power that corrupts people, but people that corrupt power.

William Gaddis



## Hands on:

In a world that is becoming more corrupt, a true Christian must be part of the solution and not part of the problem. I reflect on my daily choices and must be ready to pay the price for remaining faithful to the principles and values of honesty and justice, just like our Lord Jesus did.