



# Current Issues in Prayer

March 2018

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:

**That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.**



## Getting started:

Find a quiet place and take a few slow breaths. Open yourself to God's presence. As you enter this time of prayerful reflection, ask God for the grace of discernment both for yourself and for the whole Church.



## Short story:

Four-and-a-half year old Lainey stood in the front yard waving goodbye to her friends who had come over to play. From our laundry room window, I watched as she continued to wave. Then I saw her drop her head in sadness and walk toward our tree-lined driveway. She vanished from my sight as she headed around our garage and made her way to our backdoor. I expected to see a sad face when she came in but instead there was a smile.



She ran and busied herself with something else and a little later as I was passing by with a basket of laundry she nonchalantly said, "Mom, God talked to me under the trees." "Well, what did He say to you?" I asked in response. "He said, 'It's okay when your friends leave.'"

A smile broke out on my face as I said, "Oh, that's why you were smiling when you came in. I wondered because I knew you were sad your friends had to go home." I loved that Lainey listened to and was able to be comforted by God.

As we grow, we tend to become deaf to the voice which "talks to us under the trees." It's hard to become like little children and learn to listen again. Sometimes I wonder why God is silent in my life. How can I discern God's voice and will? What does God want from me? Does God care about what's going on in my life? I've found the Bible to be bland and boring for the past few years. Does God still speak? Who can help me in this discernment?



## Time to reflect:

How is the Church living spiritual discernment in this day and age?

How do I discern God's voice within me and around me? Do I seek help from someone in the Church herself?



## Let us pray:

Father God, help us to be persons who are capable of hearing what You want to tell us and what you would like us to do in the circumstances of our daily life, as well as in the life of the Church, especially in this day and age when our society is becoming ever more secular.



## Inspiration:

Christians "must know how to discern, especially at a time with so much communication, with so many novelties, to know how to discern: to discern one thing from another, to discern which is the novelty, the new wine that comes from God; which is news that comes from the spirit of the world and which is news that comes from the spirit of the devil"

*Pope Francis*



## Hands on:

Throughout this month, try to find some quiet time and reflect where you need to better discern God's will for you in your life. Seek the help of a spiritual guide or director and talk to him/her about this and let God lead your way.