



Current Issues in Prayer

August 2018

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

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.



Getting started:

I find a comfortable position and focus on my breathing. I ask God to help me see each and every one of my family members as a blessing and a true treasure of humanity.



Short story:

It was well past working hours and everyone was long gone. The building went completely dark except for the glimmering emergency lights. There was an eerie silence in the corridors. The only sign of life came from a back room on the far side of the top floor. As the security officer drew closer, she could hear the echoes of a heated argument... "Can't you see the long term benefits of healthy families getting the much needed support that facilitates a harmonious work-life balance? People are not machines wired to last beyond a lifetime! If we get this wrong, our community will be doomed forever!" An equally fierce voice answered, "But how can we push for this without the support of the business community? Be realistic, where do we get the funding from? The employers will eat us alive and then *WE* will be doomed forever!"



The security officer was curious to know how the discussion would conclude but she could not leave her desk unattended for long on the ground floor of parliament building. This was the eve of an important debate at the end of which MPs would vote on the new family and employment law. She hurried down to her station and said a little prayer. Like all parents, she hoped for favourable family conditions.

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Time to reflect:

I feel so distant from decisions of economists and politicians. But do I inform myself about the family policies and vote for politicians who protect the family?

Do I look inward at my family and understand its precious function as a unit in the community?

Do I appreciate enough the hard work of parents who do their utmost to keep their precious families united and functional?



Let us pray:

Lord, grant me the grace to consider each and every family member as a gift and treasure... to understand the true mission of my family in humanity... As a parent, to bring up my children to be 'men and women for others'... As a brother and sister, to give my full support... And as a son and daughter, to be respectful.



Inspiration:

"To us, family means putting your arms around each other and being there." – *Barbara Bush*



Hands on:

I will show more appreciation for the family by spending more time with my parents, siblings and children. I will see them as treasures of humanity and do my best to work for the unity and strength of the family.