



Current Issues in Prayer

August 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly “schools of true human growth”.



Getting started:

I set aside all thoughts about my daily life and concentrate on my family members... about our experiences, our happy moments together as well as about our difficult ones... and focus about the way we look upon humanity as a family.



Short story:

Janet and Paul had been married for seven years. They always tried to keep Jesus at the centre of their family through prayer and through practising ‘gospel love’ – the love towards each other and towards their neighbour. Their daughter Mariah followed this example and at school loved everyone wholeheartedly. She had a very close friend called Nora.



Nora was a talented dancer. One day during dance class, Mariah urged her friends to look out for Nora’s graceful moves. Nora heard Mariah mention her name and wrongly suspected that she was spreading a rumour about her. Nora wrote insulting names on a paper and addressed it to Mariah, making sure that it reaches her. When the paper landed on Mariah’s desk, she got very hurt.

Back home, Mariah kept everything to herself but her mother Janet realised that something was wrong. Janet could not hold back the tears when her daughter finally showed her the paper that Nora had written. Janet did not know how to react. Should she keep out of it or should she intervene? Would she be a responsible mother if she advised her daughter to confront Nora?

Later, when Paul came home from work, Janet and Mariah sat down to explain what happened. They encouraged Mariah to approach Nora and tell her that “true friends do not deserve to be treated that way and yet she was ready to forgive and start afresh”. Before sleeping, all the family prayed for Mariah’s courage to forgive and the strength to face Nora.

The next day Mariah came back from school delighted, waving a paper that Nora had given her. On the paper were two big hearts surrounded by kisses.



Time to reflect:

Is prayer present in my family life? Do I realise that my family can be a source of goodness if it sets good examples to others? What does real humanity mean to me?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, grant me the grace to support my family so that it continues to grow in love and prayer, while giving a good example in our community and helping humanity to prosper.



Inspiration:

God wants families where members love each other and educate their children in goodness.

Pope Francis



Hands on:

I show more love and commitment in my family and I do my best to spend more time with my family.