



Current Issues in Prayer

December 2014

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

That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.



Getting started:

For a while, I calm down and try to leave the hustle and bustle of everyday life behind. I let my fantasy take me to a place where people have managed to reconcile their clashing hearts and now live together in peace. I think of a prayer so that Christmas may bring people closer to each other.



Short story:

Simon tore the Christmas card to pieces.

His friend Joe was dumbfounded. "Why are you doing this?" he asked.

"I do not want to have anything to do with this person. I will not forget what he did to me three years ago."

"Maybe, by sending you this card, he intends to make peace," argued Joe.

"That's true," answered Simon. In fact written on the card were the words: 'Wishing you well at Christmas. Let us forgive and forget.' "Isn't that the way it should be?" asked Joe.

But Simon insisted: "I do not want to forgive him. Three years ago he insulted me and called me a liar in public. I do not want to have anything to do with him."

Simon became very agitated and so Joe decided to stop talking on this subject. They walked a little further, entered a shop and greeted a gentleman who was finishing his shopping. As soon as this man left, Simon exclaimed: "That is Mr Camilleri. He is an exceptional human being! He deserves not just a card but a mound of gold!"

"Why do you say so?" Joe asked. "Mr Camilleri is the director of the company where I work. A few months ago I made a fool of myself and was caught red handed stealing money. I expected him to fire me from work and open a court case against me. Instead, he sternly admonished me and ordered that I work unpaid overtime so as to refund what had been stolen. But he did not fire me."

This conversation was followed by a long pause. Then Joe asked Simon daringly: "What about you? How long will you take to forgive? More than three years?"



Time to reflect:

Have you ever received forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven? Can you name those feelings?

"I forgive but not forget." Do you think this assertion is good or bad? Why?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, grant that I may forgive the one person who has hurt me most in my life.



Inspiration:

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will and to be generous in mercy – this is to have the real spirit of Christmas. - *Calvin Coolidge*



Hands on:

Have I fallen out with someone? Can I think of some steps that I could take to come closer to that person?