



Current Issues in Prayer

March 2015

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

That those involved in scientific research may truly serve the common good of all of humanity.



Getting started:

I find a quiet place and a comfortable position. As I still my mind I reflect gratefully on the marvels of scientific research and progress. Let me thank God for them. Then, with sadness, let me recall the times when science and technology were wrongly used – for the destruction of people and the world. For a short while, let me stay with these contradictory feelings of gratitude and regret.



Short story:

Gianna Jessen was aborted, but did not die! Her biological mother was seven months pregnant (30 weeks) when she went to Planned Parenthood in southern California. There they advised her to have a late-term saline abortion.

A saline abortion is one that is induced by an injection of saline solution into the womb. The salt burns the foetus. Within 24 hours the foetus is dead and rejected.

In Gianna's case, 18 hours after the saline solution was injected into her mother's womb, she was delivered at the Planned Parenthood clinic. A nurse realized that what should have been a dead baby was actually alive. Baby Gianna was rushed to hospital. Doctors there said that were she to survive, she would certainly be blind, disfigured, suffering from a whole range of conditions and possibly paralysed, due to the burns she endured and her premature birth.

A married couple adopted Gianna and nurtured her with great love and prayer. One condition she had was cerebral palsy, due to oxygen starvation during the abortive delivery process. Prayer, nurture and love had Gianna walking, using leg-braces and a walker, by the age of 3years 6 months. More love, therapy and prayer have resulted in Gianna no longer needing to use braces. The only lasting effects of her traumatic delivery as a baby is a limp when she walks. Gianna is today a fully grown, very intelligent adult.



Time to reflect:

What are your feelings as you read this story? Name your feelings to yourself and if there are others praying with you, you might wish to share them.

Think of an example where modern technology helped someone you know in a remarkable way.

What is it that at times makes science and technology so life enhancing and at others such a threat to life?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, help us use our knowledge to promote life and not to be destructive. May we too have the hope and faith that Gianna's adoptive family had.



Inspiration:

"Death did not prevail over me ... and I am so thankful!" Gianna Jessen



Hands on:

Throughout the coming week, let me be more attentive than usual to articles and events that deal with the application of science. Let me thank God for whatever makes me grateful in this. Let me pray for God's help whenever I feel perplexed.