



Current Issues in Prayer

April 2015

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

That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.



Getting started:

I sit down comfortably and calm down. I breathe in and out gently while trying to be still. In silence, I recognize that God is with me and that He loves me. I recognize God as my creator. I feel His presence and thank Him for creating such a beautiful world for me and for us all.



Short story:

Suffering from asthma attacks, at times John ends up in emergency at hospital, quite unable to breath. John works at a steel factory, which provides employment to a great number of people. Sadly, this factory heavily pollutes the air of the nearby villages. Buildings in the villages are covered in soot that bellows out of the tall factory chimneys. Moreover, a reddish, fine dust blows in from the nearby mountains where mineral deposits are kept. This dust also pollutes all the fields around. A recent survey revealed a high percentage of local people suffering from lung cancer and from respiratory -tract diseases. John's wife suffers from chronic asthma, while his nephew has lung cancer. Both of John's parents, who had lived in the area, died from cancer as well. John would like to find employment and to live elsewhere, but unemployment is high everywhere. John feels helpless. The authorities have clamped down on factory owners so as to cut pollution, but for those who are already ill, it is too little, too late.



Time to reflect:

- Did you ever think about the fact that what we do has an effect on us and on others?
- How can I look after the environment?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, I thank you for your creating such a beautiful and precious universe. I pray that all would realise that each and every person is responsible and that everyone's actions are able to harm the environment and effect other people's lives.



Inspiration:

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

Mahatma Gandhi



Hands on:

Let me now reflect on how I lead my life, day by day, and see in what ways I am able to reduce my environmental footprint.