



Current Issues in Prayer

May 2015

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

That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.



Getting started:

Let me go to a quiet place and take up a comfortable position so as to prepare for prayer. Let me become aware of what I feel inside: am I nervous or anxious or worried? If so, let me try to calm myself. I could take slow, deep breaths while calling to mind that God is looking at me and at those around me with a loving gaze.



Short story:

On opening her eyes, Gloria found herself lying in a hospital bed. She asked the first nurse she could spot whatever had happened to her. The nurse explained that Gloria had suffered a stroke while walking back home. This was the cherry on the cake. Gloria had lost her husband only a few weeks before. Moreover, Gloria's son was out of work. Finances were at a critical level, even though Gloria was careful with money and would save up whatever she could. She had recently spent her savings on repair works to the roof of her house. And now here she was, unable to go on with her work due to the stroke that had left half of her body paralyzed.



Although Gloria did her best at physiotherapy, so as to regain as much independence as possible, she made next to no progress, due to medical complications. Therapists suggested she acquire physiotherapy equipment to use at home. Yet, this equipment was expensive.

Neighbours often visited Gloria. Martha would often provide her with cooked soups and fresh fruits. One day, Martha gave Gloria an envelope and asked her to open it. Inside was a cheque for the amount needed to acquire the necessary equipment! Gloria could hardly believe her eyes. Martha had gone around the neighbourhood telling people of Gloria's condition and collecting money from those who were willing to help out.



Time to reflect:

Do I know of a person who is sick and in need of support?
Do I know of a person who is experiencing some type of poverty – financial or social?
How am I responding to such situations?



Let us pray:

Lord, I pray for all those who are going through sickness or poverty. Provide them with what they need.



Inspiration:

“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal”

Steve Maraboli



Hands on:

Throughout the coming week, I will pray for a sick person I know. I will visit a person who is socially impoverished – who is alone and has no friends.

Let me see whether I am able to give some material resources to someone in need.