



Current Issues in Prayer

December 2020

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.**



Getting started:

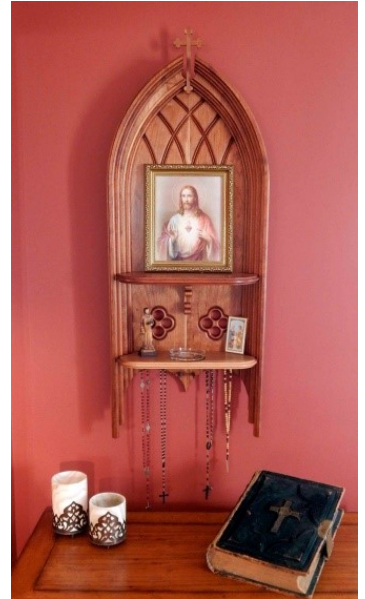
I take a few slow breaths and open up myself to God's presence. As I enter this time of prayerful reflection, I ask God for the grace of a more personal and intimate relationship with Him.



Short story:

Young and joyful Andrew loved playing the role of the priest. He would put on a robe, hold a straight face and play the preacher who delivers a passionate sermon on a makeshift altar. Years passed, and Andrew became an altar boy, still kindling his love for the holy mass. As part of their formation, the altar boys would go in their community to help the vulnerable people. Voluntary work helped Andrew understand Jesus' mission on earth, by fulfilling his inner self in 'giving himself to others'.

Recently, Andrew hinted to his parents about his wish to create a sacred space at home. He wanted his family to experience the peace and serenity of praying together. The parents were encouraged by Andrew's enthusiasm and joined him in creating a small altar under the staircase. The father removed the clutter from underneath the staircase. The mother painted the wall. And Andrew's sister hemmed the curtain around the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This was the symbol of the consecrated family. Every night after dinner, the family would gather for prayers, reading the scripture from a Bible that Andrew's grandfather had given him as a gift before he died.



Andrew wanted his friends to know about his achievement. After sharing his story, Andrew's family was contacted by other parents who wanted advice on how to set up a sacred space in their homes!



Time to reflect:

Am I finding time for prayer and for listening to the Word of God?
Am I being too busy with everyday chores?
What can I do to pray more?



Let us pray:

God, help me to plan my day so that despite my busy life, I will try to find time for You everyday.



Inspiration:

"I too think of many Christians who believe that praying is to talk to God like a parrot. No!
Praying is done from the heart, from inside"

Pope Francis, January 2019



Hands on:

Throughout this month, I try to find a few quiet moments everyday. I open the Bible and listen to what God wants to tell me. Then speak to Him like I would speak to a friend.