



# Current Issues in Prayer

August 2022

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **for small and medium sized businesses: that in the midst of economic and social crisis, they may find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.**



## Getting started:

I retire to a quiet spot and breathe gently; I become aware of God's presence. I let go of tensions and ask the Holy Spirit to lead me to a place of stillness, where I listen to Jesus saying: "Behold, I make all things new."



## Short story:

The first atomic bomb ever dropped killed multitudes and reduced Hiroshima to a charred wasteland. It was August in 1945. Experts predicted that nothing would grow there for at least seventy years. Yet by autumn, grass began to sprout from the scorched earth. The following summer, defying all predictions, the Red Oleander blossomed, and the Camphor trees produced new shoots. The Japanese were amazed, and found in this renewed courage, resilience and hope. They hold onto these trees as living symbols of the divine power that pervades and restores creation, communities and mankind.



Japanese Oleander, symbol of hope and resilience.

Anna, as many millions around the world, suffered terribly because of the pandemic. Her husband's small business became financially unsustainable and was on the brink of bankruptcy. In the darkness, she found only her faith in God to cling to. God would save her family and business from ruin, just as he had saved St Paul and all onboard during the shipwreck in Malta. Soon, and like the astonishing new life sprouting from the Hiroshima ashes, the business slowly came back to life. Moreover, with renewed courage, Anna's husband decided to further his studies to improve his business skills. The family had clearly seen that trust in God is the only unshakeable ground on which to stand.



## Time to reflect:

Identify how expectations and negative thoughts suffocate God's inspiration. How can I reach out to people undergoing economic crisis? Do I value the power of faith and prayer in facing an economic crisis? Or do I rely solely on myself and other human beings?



## Let us pray:

Lord, send your Spirit upon us. May the Spirit bring new life to all floundering small businesses - on which the livelihood and wellbeing of so many depend.



## Inspiration:

"My model for business is The Beatles. They were four guys who kept each other's negative tendencies in check, understanding that the total was greater than the sum of the parts."

*Steve Jobs*



## Hands on:

Pray for the prosperity of so many in their small businesses all over the world. Turn to the small local shops and services for your needs. If you are able to, reach out to some who are in economic crisis.