



Current Issues in Prayer

September 2023

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions: may they not be overlooked by institutions and never be considered of lesser importance.**



Getting started:

I recollect myself to allow God to guide my prayer. Then, I will recall some persons whom I know to be living in difficult circumstances and present them to the Lord.



Short story:

Baashir has been living in Malta these last three years. He arrived just before COVID-19 struck. He was promised work for a good salary; yet, on arriving from Pakistan, it all came to nothing. In an attempt to right the wrong he had suffered, he spoke to a lawyer. He too let him down. Moreover, Baashir could not find help from the State agency responsible for work, since he did not hold a contract of employment ratified in Malta. He now survives by delivering food to people – come rain or shine. He spends whole days on a motorbike running around the island, earning only a few euros for every delivery. He barely manages to cover the fuel and motorbike costs. He returns very late at night to a tiny, bare apartment for which he has to pay very high rent. To cover these costs, he shares the rent with a number of Pakistanis who live together in two small bedrooms. Four of these men work during the night, in order to leave some space for the others who work during the day. At the end of the month, Baashir sends home, back in Pakistan, the little money that remains. With it he supports a wife and four children. He longs to be able to see them all, yet how would it be possible to buy the air tickets? Baashir is not the only one. Esther, a youth from the Philippines works for fourteen hours every day at an old people's home that is privately owned. Daniel, a young ex-convict lives in a garage that is two stories underground.



Time to reflect:

Why are such persons marginalized, even when they long to be active in society? Are institutions appreciating every person and encouraging all to help such persons integrate better into society?



Let us pray:

Lord, give us the wisdom to look at the persons rather than label them for their past or their country of origin. Help us notice the sufferings that such persons endure so as to be at society's service.



Inspiration:

Go forth and reach out to all people at the margins of society! Go there and be the Church, with the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis



Hands on:

If ever I make use of the services of such persons, I will make sure that I am not taking unjust advantage of their situation.