



# Current Issues in Prayer

December 2023

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.**



## Getting started:

I take some moments to focus on God's presence, that He might guide me in my prayer. Let me bring to mind persons I know who suffer from disabilities and reflect on how open society is to appreciating their potential.



## Short story:

Liliana had long been jostling in her mind on ways to tell others what she planned. She would often feel that others considered her inferior, since she had some intellectual impairment. Doctors, for example, would not address their questions directly to her, but to the person escorting her. At restaurants, waiters would address her friends to get her order. Students at her school just assumed that they were to take care of every aspect of her life and treat her as though she were their little sister. They would explain the contents of school circulars as though she were not capable of reading them for herself. They would forget that Liliana loves to read and actually composes lovely poems. She was almost kept from taking part in a school clean-up day, as they feared she would get hurt. They forgot that Liliana is actually involved in an organization dedicated to the upkeep of the environment and that she practises abseiling. There are school council elections coming up, and Liliana is considering putting in her candidacy. She is unsure as to whether to do so, since she does not want votes out of pity. On the other hand, how is she to convince students that she has much to offer in a whole range of areas and not just in how to treat the disabled? And if elected, how will the council treat her?



## Time to reflect:

How come, persons with disabilities wonder how they will be treated by others, while trying to be active in society? Are institutions giving the proper value to persons with disabilities and encouraging them to participate in the various areas of social life?



## Let us pray:

Lord, give us the wisdom to appreciate the potential of every person and to make space in society for the active contribution of members who suffer from some disability.



## Inspiration:

Our human family is completed when everyone is included.

*Curt Armstrong*



## Hands on:

If I know persons who have a disability, I will appreciate their potential and make sure that they are included in all activities.

I will raise awareness on social media about the value of effective inclusion of such persons in our society.