



Current Issues in Prayer

May 2024

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.**



Getting started:

I find a quiet moment to stay briefly in God's presence. I ask Him to be aware of the complexity of human growth and to appreciate all those who contribute to nurturing it.



Short story:

Madeleine was a difficult novice in the Carmelite convent of Lisieux. She had had a horrible childhood, full of experiences of abuse and ill-treatment. In spite of all this, she felt she had a vocation and entered Carmel. Her formator was Thérèse – who later became Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus. Thérèse deeply believed that God loved Madeleine. Madeleine understood this in her head but, because of her awful background, could not feel anything in her heart. Thérèse listened carefully to her troubled novice, while waiting for signs from God as to what could possibly nurture Madeleine's healing and spiritual growth.



One day, Thérèse told her a story. It was of a king who had set out on the chase. As the king and his companions galloped along, he observed that the dogs had broken the chase and were pursuing a young hare. Sensing that the dogs were closing in on it, the little hare made a sudden leap backwards, landing on the arms of one of the footmen. The king was amazed especially at the trust this little creature had made in a man. The king took the little thing to keep and nurture as his own. Thérèse wanted Madeleine to believe that no matter how hopeless our situation, God is there with open arms waiting for us to leap into them and into the safety of his bosom. In truth, God is more pleased by our trust in him than by anything else.



Time to reflect:

Am I aware that no human development is possible without trust? Has my religious upbringing been full of fear or full of trust in God? Has there been a significant person who helped me to accept myself wholly?



Let us pray:

Lord, may all the religious in formation learn to trust those that you place to nurture them in their holistic development, as they prepare themselves to love and serve people wherever they are sent.



Inspiration:

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

Corrie Ten Boom



Hands on:

I look back at my life to recall some consecrated persons who had a notable influence on me. In what way did they influence me socially and spiritually? I thank the Lord for them.