



Current Issues in Prayer

August 2024

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.**



Getting started:

I start by thinking about my country. What one thing in my society am I grateful for? I give thanks for it.

I now consider one thing that I would like to change and hold it in my mind as I reflect.



Short story:

John did not want to have anything to do with politics. He deeply mistrusted politicians who, in his opinion, were in it only to make money and to feed their ego. He detested the polarisation and political tribalism he saw in all aspects of society. It left no space for people who yearned for a more just and correct way of doing things. One evening he met Stephanie in a bar. They started chatting and the more they talked the more they clicked. They had so many interests and ideas in common! Suddenly John realised that Stephanie was talking to him about her political party. She was a politician! But as they talked, John realised that Stephanie deeply cared about people and had many plans and ideas on how she could make the lives of poor and marginalised people better. She was particularly emotional when she talked about modern day slavery and was drafting amendments to the law which would better protect people from being taken advantage of. She did not care that she would probably not be acknowledged if the new law would eventually get approved in parliament. 'What is important is that people are better protected' she told John.



Time to reflect:

What effect did John's encounter with Stephanie had on him? How would society be better off if all politicians were like Stephanie?



Let us pray:

Lord, I pray that more generous young people would consider going into politics in a selfless way, as a means of serving others and of working to make society better.



Inspiration:

Politics is the highest form of charity. Love is a political matter. Love is for everybody, and when love is not universal, politics fail in their intent.

Pope Francis



Hands on:

At the beginning of this time of prayer I thought of one thing that I would like to change in my country. Let me now do some research on it and consider whether changing it would truly benefit society. If I see that it would improve things, I could send emails to parliamentary representatives in my district explaining my suggestion and petitioning them to carry it forward.