



Current Issues in Prayer

October 2024

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that the Church continue to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of coresponsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.**



Getting started:

I find a quiet spot. I imagine Jesus sending his disciples “two by two” to preach the Gospel. They return rejoicing, as devils submit to them and leave.



Short story:

Some time ago, we went, as a youth-group, for a voluntary work experience in Ethiopia, with the Sisters of Charity. This was organised by the Jesuits. Our leaders were a lay woman and a priest. We stayed at a Franciscan Sisters’ convent, that served also as an orphanage. Our mission was to assist sick people in the hospital of the Sisters of Charity. In the evening, the Franciscans distributed food to the children. We wished to help in this too, but we would be exhausted from our work at the hospital. One of the volunteers suggested that once a week we would help the Franciscans rather than go to the hospital. This idea divided the group. Some maintained that we were there for the sick while others sustained we should also give some help to the Sisters since they were providing us with free accommodation. The leaders suggested we pray together. The priest invited us to dedicate some time for reflection the next day. Later, we met so as to take a decision. It was a beautiful moment where we shared our reflections in prayer. We listened to each other: what the youngest volunteer said was as important as what the priest said. After listening and praying together, we decided to continue focusing on hospital work, especially due to the limited time. However, we opted to organise a party for the children before going back home. This decision-making process taught us how to be a living Church where decisions are made together.



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Time to reflect:

How am I living my baptism? Do I feel I have a role in the Church? How am I giving witness to my faith at work, with my family and friends?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, I pray that all in the Church may continue to recognize that each member, priest, religious or laity, has an important role and mission in the spreading of the Gospel.



Inspiration:

We are the baptized; we are Christians; we are the disciples of Jesus. Everything else is secondary ... Our common belonging to Christ makes us all brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis



Hands on:

I make an effort to work with people hailing from other communities, even if their ideas might be different. I think of a group where I can give my services as a volunteer.