Current Issues in Prayer

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray for Human fraternity. May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Getting started:
I choose a comfortable place and I recollect myself in the presence of God. I ask that my prayer will guide me to live the meaning of fraternity with my brothers and sisters who have other religious beliefs.

Short story:
At the end of an online class webinar, a few students hung on. They were reluctant to leave. It was bang in the middle the Covid-19 lockdown and there was nothing to do and nowhere to go anyway. The main topic of conversation inevitably turned on the pandemic.

Sarah, a Catholic, knew her classmates had different religious backgrounds and was curious to know how their respective beliefs provide comfort during these chaotic and unpredictable times. She started, “I think in the middle of a crisis, there is a deep invitation”. Sarah spoke passionately about the Genesis, “the Holy Spirit is hovering over the chaos, and then speaking life out of that chaotic place. In the same way, I feel that God is with me in this crisis, waiting to speak life out of this situation”. Yavuz, Muslim, agreed and said that despite the insecurities, God was acting in our best interest and argued that “the things that appear to happen to us are happening for us”. Avni, Buddhist, sees the virus as a way of disturbing our own peace of mind that forces us to question our own existence. “We realise our fragility, face the suffering and finally liberate ourselves by focusing on the ‘non-self’”.

The clock struck midnight. No one realised time passed so quickly. Yavuz concluded with the observation that their discussion was the point where religions converge, realising that they were all seeking the same truth, but from different angles. They promised they would pray for each other and longed to meet again.

Time to reflect:
I live in a multicultural society where I constantly come across people with different religious backgrounds. Do I realise that our different faiths are not points of division, but can help us with strengthening unity and fraternity? How do I use my faith as a bridge to unite with others who have different beliefs? How do I practice living in human fraternity?

Let us pray:
Dear Lord, help us discover the strengths of faith that unite us in human fraternity with our brothers and sisters from other religions. Guide us to realise that in our faith lie the ingredients for peace and unity with others.

Inspiration:
If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hands on:
I research and learn about other religions and find the common grounds that unite all religions. I inform myself well and use this knowledge to help build bridges whenever I can through dialogue and compassion with people who come from other religions.