



Current Issues in Prayer

June 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:

That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are most poor.



Getting started:

I find a quiet place and I bring to mind people all over the world who are homeless, hungry and poor. I thank God for providing me with my needs and for surrounding me with loving people.



Short story:



“I am really impressed by the endless work that Fr. Joe and his team do to ensure that the children in this neighbourhood have a bright future... I feel humbled by all this love... this unconditional love”. This was a comment on Facebook written by Michelle, a Maltese voluntary worker at the Jose Depiro Formation Centre in The Philippines. It was Michelle’s reaction to her first-hand experience of the dedicated work carried out by Maltese missionary Fr. Joe Cremona. The

Formation Centre is in the parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria in Pagalanggang, a very poor village in Bataan province, where Fr. Joe has been the parish priest for the last thirteen years. “We set up a school of music to support the local children. This helps them develop their talents and we guide them towards a meaningful purpose in life”. This project has enabled children to come together in a safe place that keeps them away from crime, drugs or child prostitution. They also learn through spiritual and educational activities. Fr. Joe sponsors a number of students to further their studies in Manila. At the weekend, these students return home and visit the centre to support children in their studies. Fr. Joe says that “All this would not have been possible were it not for the constant support from benefactors and volunteers who truly believe in this project”. Fr. Joe uses funds for the construction of houses for homeless families, supports poor families and helps the sick to buy the medicines they need and which they cannot afford. Michelle is grateful to God for her experience in witnessing the life of a modest and humble priest who is actively committed in offering solidarity to the poor.



Time to reflect:

Do I realise how lucky I am? Do I stop to think about those people who are less fortunate than I and those who support them with dedication and solidarity? Have I ever done something to help those who need help and support?



Let us pray:

Lord, I would like to pray for the priests who dedicate their lives and work tirelessly with those who are most poor. Lord grant them the strength and the help that they need.



Inspiration:

Let us bring to the world, through our witness, with love, the hope given by faith. *Pope Francis*



Hands on:

I think of someone who is poor and help him/her directly. If I do not know anyone, I support an organisation that helps the poor.