



Current Issues in Prayer

October 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary “spring” in the church.



Getting started:

I find a comfortable place and try to feel God’s presence within me. I thank God for all the persons who make their work a mission to help others grow and develop in faith.



Short story:



They call her ‘The Smiling Nun’. Sister Sabra is a young African nun who carries out her mission in a girls’ church school in Malta. Like all European countries, Malta has been experiencing a rising tide of secularism. In the past few decades, churchgoers have nearly halved and the number of vocations has dwindled. Sr. Sabra is one of a growing number of young missionary educators who are carrying on the work of retiring Maltese nuns in church schools.

“The fire that we read about in books about this ‘tiny country with a big heart’ that sent out missions... that same fire is missing now,” says Sr. Sabra without sounding sombre. On the contrary, she’s full of energy and believes Europe will ‘soon’ wake up to rekindle its Christian faith.

Sr. Sabra is soft spoken and has dainty manners, but she does not lack the native wit and discipline that a teacher needs to manage a rowdy class. She jokes about adapting to a new culture... “My mission as a teacher in the school is still the same, except that in summer our live-ins are spent at the beach and not on the Serengeti plains!” With an irrepressible giggle, Sr. Sabra calls herself a “reverse missionary” - an evangelist from the former mission fields of Africa who believes that her calling is to revitalise Christianity in the country that first brought the religion to her.



Time to reflect:

‘Missionary Work’ often brings to mind stories of priest adventurers going to faraway countries to evangelise. But do I realise that I can be a missionary in my daily actions as a student, parent, son/daughter and at work? I do this by committing wholeheartedly to what I do and offering my work to God.



Let us pray:

Holy Spirit rekindle in us the strength in faith and give us the energy and motivation to spread the good news of the Gospel that will bring a new missionary spring in the church.



Inspiration:

“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier”.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Hands on:

Whatever I do during the day, I do with a sense of faith and mission. I particularly use this approach to carry out the duties and roles I do half-heartedly.