



September, October, and November 2019

Dear Friends in the Lord,

I write to let you know more about the exciting “recreation” of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) from the Apostleship of Prayer (AoP). This is not your grandmother’s nor your novice master’s AoP, although we remain in continuity with our tradition and history. In June we celebrated our 175th anniversary with the Holy Father in Rome.

Several years ago, the AoP began an intense self-examination at the direction of Fr. General Nicolas which resulted in a recreation with deeper engagement of the digital world, reimagining devotion to the Sacred Heart, and a new name and image.

We are the official platform for the Pope’s intentions, with a monthly 90-second video from the Holy Father: The Pope Video. The US-Canada office is the English language lead consultant for this production. Millions see this video every month, worldwide. Our app “Click To Pray” is the official prayer platform for smart phones of the Holy Father. It is available at the App Store for Apple and Android devices and our US-Canada office produces all the English language content for the over 250,000 monthly English language users. The app invites users to brief prayers three times a day.

Our website has weekly blogs and other content. You can sign up for regular emails at your own desired intervals. “The Way of the Heart” is a new look at devotion to the heart of Jesus with content in development for a full curriculum and materials to assist in sharing it with parishes, prayer groups, and individuals. High quality web products have been produced in Spanish as a pilot program and will be launched soon, with English to follow this year. I encourage and invite you to consider how any of these materials might be of use to you in your ministry.

over →

----- ✂ -----

Name/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

**We/I would like to make a gift of:** ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select ONE of the following: ☐ Payment enclosed (Make checks payable to: **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**)

☐ Charge to my credit card: # \_\_\_\_\_

If you send a gift of \$250 or more, we will mail you a thank-you letter, unless you check one of the boxes below.

Expiration (mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Make this gift a monthly recurring gift

☐ Send me an email thank-you and save postage.

☐ Thanks, but no thank-you letter is necessary

**Prayer requests, subscription changes, or other comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Our statutes were revised by the Holy Father last year, formally making us a pontifical work and part of the Vatican Curia. The clarification of this status is intended to ensure that the PWPN (AoP) is understood as a work of the Universal Church, not merely the Society of Jesus.

This fall we are praying with the Holy Father regarding the challenges he sees facing humanity: the protection of oceans, a need for dialogue and healing in the Near East, and the future of the very young. When I stand at the altar as a priest, I very much feel part of this larger community of prayer. You are in my prayers even now. Thank you for your support: We could not do this work without you.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. W. Blazek SJ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. William Blazek, SJ  
Regional Director  
Canada and the United States



# REFLECTIONS ON THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

## September, October, and November 2019

### Daily Offering Prayer

God, our Father, I offer You my day. I offer You my prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings in union with the Heart of Jesus, who continues to offer Himself in the Eucharist for the salvation of the world. May the Holy Spirit, who guided Jesus, be my guide and my strength today so that I may witness to Your love. With Mary, the mother of our Lord and of the Church, I pray for all Apostles of Prayer and for this month's intentions proposed by the Holy Father. Amen.

### Traditional Offering Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

## September

### The Protection of the Oceans

*That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.*

### Reflection by Fr. Peter Schineller, SJ

Photos from the space station show planet earth as a beautiful blue marble with two-thirds of it covered by water. But here on earth, it is not so beautiful. We hear stories and see pictures of destruction. Ocean plastics kill millions of marine animals each year. Whales die with stomachs filled with plastic refuse. Coral reefs that sustain fisheries and tourism are disappearing. Every year 300 million tons of metals, sludge, and solvents are dumped into the world's waters. One-third of fish species are threatened with extinction.

The Bishops of the Philippines once asked: "Who has turned the wonder world of the seas into under-water cemeteries bereft of color and life?" We who are causing this destruction can and must reverse our direction and come to the aid of our planet. Following the lead of Pope Francis, we must protect and preserve our oceans.

How? First we must acknowledge the reality, the destruction that continues. We must grow in appreciation of the place that the oceans play in our lives. Life came from and continues to come from water, from the oceans. Pope Francis has called for an "ecological conversion." Not only must birds and animals be protected but now the oceans themselves.

Pope Francis explained that Christians have a responsibility to care for the world's seas and oceans, and to keep them from being littered "by endless fields of floating plastic." Calling this an emergency that must be fought with active commitment, he pleaded: "It is my prayerful hope that Christian communities may contribute more and more concretely to help everyone to enjoy this indispensable resource, in respectful care for the gifts received from the Creator, and in particular rivers, seas and oceans."



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network  
UNITED STATES | CANADA  
APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER



CLICKTOPRAY  
TOGETHER WE MAKE EACH DAY DIFFERENT



THE POPE VIDEO  
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



eym  
ECUMENICAL YOUTH MOVEMENT

## October

### **A Missionary “Spring” in the Church**

*That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary “spring” in the church.*

#### **Reflection by Mr. David A. Lugo, SJ**

On the Feast of the Ascension, before he ascended to the right hand of God the Father, Jesus said to his disciples: “[Y]ou will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The end of Jesus’ public ministry and earthly life, therefore, is immediately followed by the descent of the Holy Spirit and the missionary work of the Church. Throughout the ages Christian disciples have answered this call to witness to Christ by going throughout the world to preach the Gospel in foreign lands. This missionary zeal, however, has never been possible without the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Think of Peter, for example, and how the power of the Holy Spirit that he received at Pentecost transformed him from a humble fisherman to the bold preacher and evangelist of the early Church.

Many examples throughout the ages follow this pattern of receiving the Holy Spirit and being sent on mission. By our initiation into the Church, we Christians have been given the gifts of the Holy Spirit to inspire our missionary work in the world. As we consider the state of the world today, a springtime of evangelization is budding all around us. On every continent, new ecclesial movements and committed disciples are engaging the world and transforming it through their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since the mission of every Christian is to work for the coming of the Kingdom until Christ returns in glory, may we be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who calls us and emboldens us in our labour.

## November

### **Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East**

*That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.*

#### **Reflection by Srs. Trudy Nabur and Bernadette Lynch (Sisters of Sion Community, Jerusalem)**

Far too many wars, political divisions, conflicts and hostilities between the diverse religious communities within the Near East have left populations scared and crippled in moral, financial and spiritual ways. This race to dominate has led to vicious murders that have little regard or respect for one’s neighbour.

Local leaders have manifested horrendous attitudes of greed and thirst for power leading to domination and autocratic decision-making, manifesting little interest in what is the best for their people and for humanity as a whole.

May enough people in the Near East be sufficiently open and committed to practice repentance or “teshuvah,” working towards a change of attitude in order to encounter “the other” who is different. This will require greater efforts to engage in healthy dialogue. Such action will remove the possibility of losing hope. We remember the words of Pope John Paul II, how we “must not abandon ourselves to despair.” We pray for a spirit of openness, for compassion and respect towards those we see as different; may this lead to eventual peace between different communities and diverse religions.