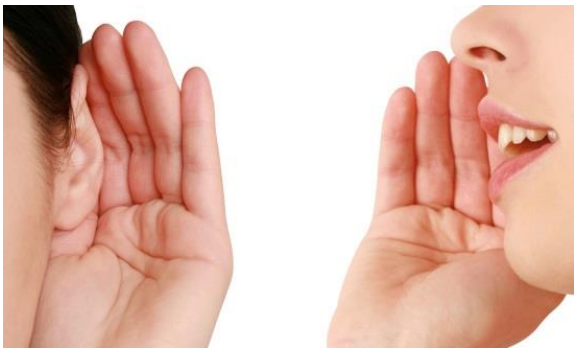
PRAYER for OCTOBER 2016

In October Pope Francis invites us all to pray for journalism, and journalists, to pray this month ***"That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics".*** Journalism should be able to speak truth, fearlessly, not influenced by government, vested interests or other powerful forces.

Part of our prayer and reflection this month could draw to mind the pressures that journalists often work under. It might even lead us to a greater appreciation of the sacrifices that they might be called on to make, when they choose to respect truth, to hold a strong ethical sense and to respect that fundamental human right to free information.

Prayer moment: ask the Spirit of God to take you to an inner place of quiet and calm, and to help you to let go of at least some of the distractions and noise of the day. Draw your attention to the fact that God is gazing on you now and allow God to look at you for a moment; you will come to see that God was looking at you in love before you turned to look at God! Ask that same Spirit to help you to ponder the place that respect for truth and ethical practice has in your daily life. One way could be to use, in the month of October, the prayer of daily reflection each evening, praying particularly about how you've acted truthfully and ethically in the day just ending.

Moment for reflection: Can I bring to mind, or ask God's Spirit to show to me, where in our shared life I have supported, or failed to challenge, journalists who have not respected the truth or shown a strong sense of ethics. Have I patronised media channels or publications that have done this? ways in my own living where I might have acted very ethically in reporting the facts, whether or not I am a journalist? Or, maybe, instances where I have done the opposite, misusing news or information that I have received? In my reflection, I can ponder whether I ought to make any resolutions to do a bit better.



God, our Father help us to be upright and truthful in our everyday lives. May we never bend the truth to suit our own purposes or to 'save our skins'. May we use the wonder of modern media to spread good news and build others self-esteem and confidence rather than spread gossip and rumours. Let us always seek the truth that will set us free.