

Dear Francis,

My sincere appreciation and prayerful thanks to God for inspiring your heart with such wonderful emotions in prayer – well reasoned in print. Congratulations! I remain very much in appreciation for your life and family who appear in the general theme and development of the book on prayer.

It is over two months since we met on the road and had a general chat. I feel ashamed that it took nearly 55 days for me to complete 198 pages of “Within Reach of You”. I am slow for various reasons: the one reason that stands out is the nature of slow reading and taking notes. As I complete reading your Book, I have a few good pages of notes from your Book.

I admire that each page of the Book is very much personal and no theme or discussion runs in the air or stands away from the personal touch of the author. It stands very much close to life and social context. Prayer becomes touching as every prayer carries a person or an event around us.

When you say *Thank you Lord for my nothing- being- something days* - I had a laugh as I struggle to understand a day gratefully and gracefully if I have not done anything. I need to learn to appreciate my meditations and relaxations in the above title.

I often wonder at your family and now can easily imagine it well within the theme of Grace Urlakis' poem “The Stained glass.”

Of course, the problem of evil versus the Omnipotence of God - finding a theme of discussion on a few pages gives heart and thought to the Book on prayer.

When I sit in the conservatory with a coffee in hand and heart disturbed with the pictures from Afghanistan, my reason and emotions are at war with one side for the suffering people and on the other side against the gunned Taliban. Your inspirational discussion on page 161: “distance, however is very deceptive and can inure us, even induce an indifference ...”. The theme of circulation is stunningly inspiring to make a difference to understand a humanitarian crisis in an obviously problematic-terroristic context.

In the final part of the Book when you quote: “Your Cross O Lord is the station between heaven and earth” - Prayer leads us to remain in a station between – towards a completion of life. Earth can be of many experiences and personal traits – Heaven is the hope to enter into the perfect communion of the Father-Son and the Holy Spirit.

Thanks for the meaningful and guiding Book.

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