

## SOMEWHERE NEARBY

As we begin our time together, let us start with a prayer. Part of living Catholic lives is recognizing God's presence in the all the ordinary and not so ordinary moments that we live each day. This prayer is designed to pray for things happening very close to us but often unseen, unnoticed, and unsprayed for. In the face of this hidden world, Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear.

Somewhere near us, at this moment, someone is ill and struggling to stay alive,  
Someone is struggling to keep his or her marriage together,  
Someone is struggling to resist a deep, familiar, temptation.  
Let us pray for them in their struggle...For they are all Beloved Children of God

Somewhere near us, at this moment, a football game is under way,  
A couple are enjoying their new baby,  
A family are making holiday plans,  
A person is getting his supplies for a home project.  
Let us pray for them in their relaxation...For they are all Beloved Children of God

Somewhere near us, at this moment, the air is electric with a family argument,  
A person is planning their next fall off the wagon,  
A person with depression is quietly crying inside,  
A person is feeling overwhelmed at the thought of work again on Monday.  
Let us pray for them in their dark places...For they are all Beloved Children of God

Somewhere near us, at this moment, a person has just finished a book that delighted them,  
Someone is working on a woodcarving,  
Someone is learning lines for a play,  
Someone is downloading digital photos of their grandchildren.  
Let us pray for them in all their creativity...For they are all Beloved Children of God

Somewhere near us, at this moment, God the Father is holding the world on course,  
God the Son, is pulling together the wonderful raw material of human lives,  
God the Holy Spirit is energizing his people.

Somewhere near us, at this moment, and at every moment of our lives, God will be lovingly present to every part of his creation, and every person in it. He will be struggling with us, shaping us, encouraging us, and persuading us. He will be delighting in us and despairing over us. He will never give up. Because we are his Beloved Children.

Amen.