"Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."

~ Pope Francis

# A Prayer of Pope Francis for Every Finger of Our Hand



family & friends

leaders & teachers

gov't & authority

weak or sick

myself last

# A Prayer of Pope Francis
# for Every Finger of Our Hand
### written by Don Valentino Salvoldi

The atheist Ludwig Feuerbach writes "We are what we eat." As Christians we affirm to be that what we pray, how we pray and for those for whom we pray for. This input comes indirectly from a reflection that Pope Francis gave about fifteen years ago, when he was the Bishop of Buenos Aires. A reflection that has been faithfully lived during these first days of his pontificate:

1. The thumb is the finger closest to you. Begin, therefore, to pray for those who are closest to you. They are the people that we easily remember. To pray for our dear loved ones is "a sweet obligation."

2. The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach, educate and care for the sick. This category includes teachers, professors, doctors, and priests. They need support and wisdom to indicate to others the right direction. Remember them always in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the highest one. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the President, the members of Congress or in a foreign country the members of the Parliament, the employers and the managers. They are the people who lead the destiny of our particular country and guide the public opinion.… They need the guidance of God.

4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. Many will be surprised, but this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher could confirm. It is there to remind us to pray for the weakest, for those who have challenges to face, and for the sick. They need your prayers day and night. Prayers for them will never be too many. Also this finger is there to remind us to pray for married couples.

5. And lastly there is our pinkie, the smallest of them all, because we must feel small before God and our neighbor. As the Bible says, "the last will be first." The pinkie reminds us to pray for ourselves… After you have prayed for everyone else, then you will be able to understand your own necessities better looking at them in the right perspective.



LET THE CHURCH ALWAYS BE A PLACE OF MERCY AND HOPE, WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOMED, LOVED AND FORGIVEN.
~ Pope Francis