

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation.

The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime, but a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman. "I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious:

Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone."

Prayer:

"Grant O Lord, My God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you and a hope of finally embracing you." Lord, we also pray for the new pope, Pope Benedict. May he be guided by the Holy Spirit in leading your Church and may his heart and mind always be open to hear your voice in whatever form it takes. **Amen**