

HELP

God Our Father,

Help us remember that the jerk that cuts us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19 year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next year.

Remind us, Father, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those who we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those that are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD