How to Pray in the Questions of this Disaster

The fruit of Silence is Prayer
The fruit of Prayer is Faith
The fruit of Faith is Love
The fruit of Love is Service
The fruit of Service is Peace!

Mother Theresa

1. We must all take time to be silent! Why aren't we silent more? **Where do you go to be silent NOW?**

2. Prayer should begin in Silence. **In silence our questions emerge. What answers do you come seeking?**
   Listen to the silence of your heart and let God speak! In the midst of pain, God hears!
   What God says to us is more important than what we say to God!

3. **As questions emerge, pray in some way…Our questions really are our prayers!**
   What questions do you need to pray through?

Begin in a moment (or a fleeting second of silence, humility, centering!)
   You can't find God in the chaos of life. God is in the silence.
   You can't find God in the noise of life. God is in the silence.

4. **Drown out the Noise...the Chaos seeks to drown out God.**
   What noises in your life are seeking to drown out God?

My paraphrase of a Richard Foster confession: The truth of the matter is, we all come to prayer with a tangled mass of motives—the noises of life. But, I have come to see that GOD is big enough to receive me with all my mixture of motives, noises, chaos, and the mess of humanity that I am! As I pray in the grace of God …I discover that God is enough!

5. **Pray regardless of whether you think you have time, energy, or understanding!**
   Pray while brushing your teeth…the Tsunami victims may not be able to brush theirs today.
   Pray while cooking...the disaster victims may not have food today.
   Pray after a dream…those left behind in this terrible wake may not sleep today.
   Pray as you eat…that all will have some morsel of food today.
   Pray as you commute to work…the disaster victims don't have roads today.
   Pray as you "click" your remote control…many don't have homes today.
   Pray as you put money in the vending machine…that you may give selflessly to relief efforts.
   Pray as you lock your doors tonight…that all may have shelter today.
   Pray when your phone rings…that all might be connected to someone today.
   Pray when you see the pictures of the devastation…that relief may come quickly.
   God's in the silence! But, God hears us through the Chaos and Noise and Distractions.

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Resources:
Mother Teresa: A Simple Path - Compiled by Lucinda Vardey
A Celebration of Discipline – Richard Foster.
Seeking the Kingdom – Richard Foster