

Sunday 13th November 2022

WORLD DAY of the POOR

*Sharing with the poor
enables us to
understand the
deepest truth of
the Gospel.*

Pope Francis



For more information:
www.spiritan.ie

Sunday 13th November 2022 marks the 6th Annual World Day of the Poor

The theme for this day is *For your sakes Christ became poor* (2 Cor 8:9). With these words, the Apostle Paul addresses the first Christians of Corinth in order to encourage their efforts to show solidarity with their brothers and sisters in need. The World Day of the Poor comes this year as a healthy challenge, helping us to reflect on our style of life and on the many forms of poverty all around us.

World Day of the Poor 2022

In his message for 2022 Pope Francis has emphasised a faith leading to action. He particularly highlights the need for our world to be in solidarity with those marginalised because of forced migration. Pope Francis' full message is available from the Vatican website at this link;

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/20220613-messaggio-giornatamondiale-poveri-2022.html>

Pope Francis in his annual message has emphasised the global forced displacement of people: ***Millions of women, children and elderly people are being forced to brave the danger of bombs just to find safety by seeking refuge as displaced persons in neighbouring countries. How many others remain in the war zones, living each day with fear and the lack of food, water, medical care and above all human affections?***

The action that Pope Francis is ultimately asking: ***As members of civil society, let us continue to uphold the values of freedom, responsibility, fraternity, and solidarity. And as Christians, let us always make charity, faith and hope the basis of our lives and our actions. Where the poor are concerned, it is not talk that matters; what matters is rolling up our sleeves and putting our faith into practice through a direct involvement, one that cannot be delegated.***

Pope Francis reminds readers in his message of the way that Jesus lived his life on earth. ***The message of Jesus shows us the way that Christ's own poverty sets us free and brings us peace. Encountering the poor enables us to put an end to many of our anxieties and empty fears, and to arrive at what truly matters in life, the treasure that no one can steal from us: true and gratuitous love. The poor, before being the object of our almsgiving, are people, who can help set us free from the snares of anxiety and superficiality.***

Pope Francis' concludes his message with this prayer for the World Day of the Poor. ***May this 2022 World Day of the Poor be for us a moment of grace. May it enable us to make a personal and communal examination of conscience and to ask ourselves whether the poverty of Jesus Christ is our faithful companion in life.***





World Day of the Poor History

The World Day of the Poor was instituted by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et Misera* in November 2016 to mark the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The following passage from the Apostolic letter speaks to the vision of the World Day of the Poor:

During the "Jubilee for Socially Excluded People", as the Holy Doors of Mercy were being closed in all the cathedrals and shrines of the world, I had the idea that, as yet another tangible sign of this Extraordinary Holy Year, the entire Church might celebrate, on the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, the World Day of the Poor. This would be the worthiest way to prepare for the celebration of the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, who identified with the little ones and the poor and who will judge us on our works of mercy (cf. Mt 25:31-46). It would be a day to help communities and each of the baptized to reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel and that, as long as Lazarus lies at the door of our homes (cf. Lk 16:19-21), there can be no justice or social peace. This Day will also represent a genuine form of new evangelization (cf. Mt 11:5) which can renew the face of the Church as She perseveres in her perennial activity of pastoral conversion and witness to mercy.

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on." (Mark 12:41-44)

- What is Jesus saying in this story about Value?
- What is the Gospel Challenge in this Scripture passage?
- What can we do to live out this Challenge?

VIDEO RESOURCES

Pope Francis' call for action is rooted in the understanding of what he sees as a Culture of Waste that has developed in our Global Society. He invites us all to **make a serious commitment to respect and protect creation, to be attentive to every person, to counter the culture of waste and disposable, to promote a culture of solidarity and of encounter.**

In very clear terms he explains the consequences of this culture on people: ***Consumerism has caused us the acceptance of daily excess and waste of food. Remember, however, that the food that is thrown away is as if we had stolen it from the table of the poor, from those who are hungry!***

To view three short length videos which speaks to the experience of the Poor in our local and global society, click on www.spiritan.ie.

QUOTES AND REFLECTIONS FOR USE ON WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

- Blessed are the poor in Spirit; the Kingdom of heaven is theirs. (Matthew 5:3)
- Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.
(By coming together, people live) – Séanfhocail
- So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (John 13:14)
- But it is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing. That cannot be of God. God's will is that all his children be happy. – Saint Oscar Romero
- "Can he who hates justice govern? Will you condemn the just and mighty One? Is he not the One who says to kings, 'You are worthless,' and to nobles, 'You are wicked,' who shows no partiality to princes and does not favour the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands?" (Job 34:17-19)
- [Jesus] stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. (Luke 4:17-19)
- Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? (James 2:5)

Prayers

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the Local and Global Church communities, that they may be a voice for those who lack even the basic necessities of life, tirelessly serving them and calling for change. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for all leaders, that they may work for the good of all humanity, particularly the most marginalised throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for our own community, that we may show our love through our respect for each other and for our environment, gladly sharing what we have with those in need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

Prayer – Poverty, Peace and Justice

O Lord, God of life,
who cares for all creation, give us your peace.
May our security not come from arms, but from respect,
May our force not be of violence, but of love.
May our wealth not be in money, but in sharing.
May our path not be of ambition, but of justice.
May our victory not be from vengeance, but in forgiveness.
Open and confident, we want to defend the dignity of all creation, sharing, today and forever, the bread of solidarity and peace.
In the name of Jesus, your holy son, our brother,
who, as victim of our violence, even from the heights of the cross gave us all forgiveness. Amen.
(Prayer from an ecumenical conference in Brazil, 2012)

Hope

Hope means to keep living
amid desperation
and to keep humming
in the darkness.
Hoping is knowing that there is love,
it is trust in tomorrow
it is falling asleep
and waking again
when the sun rises.
In the midst of a gale at sea,
it is to discover land.
In the eyes of another
it is to see that you are understood...
As long as there is still hope
There will also be prayer...
And you will be held in God's hands.
– Henri Nouwen, *With Open Hands*,
(Ave Maria Press, 1995).

Prayer for Homelessness

God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you all who are homeless, isolated and cold.
Draw near to them and comfort them.
Bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship.
May we as your followers also show kindness to those most in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity... It means not having enough to feed and cloth a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and the exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.

UN Statement, June 1998 – signed by the heads of all UN agencies.



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