



Reflections for

World Day of the Poor

*Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.*

Luke 6:20

*Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor –
(Tob 4.7)*



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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 Extra ordinary 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 evangelisation (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.



Quotes from Pope Francis poverty and people

“

We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. May we never abandon them.' *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*

“

Whenever we do something together, something good, something beautiful, everyone changes—all of us change in some way — and this does us good.' **Pope Francis address the 'Peace factory'**

“

Dear migrants and refugees! Never lose the hope that you too are facing a more secure future, that on your journey you will encounter an outstretched hand, and that you can experience fraternal solidarity and the warmth of friendship. *Pope's message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees*

“

Before all else, the Gospel invites us to respond to the God of love who saves us, to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others. **Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel**

Antiphon 1

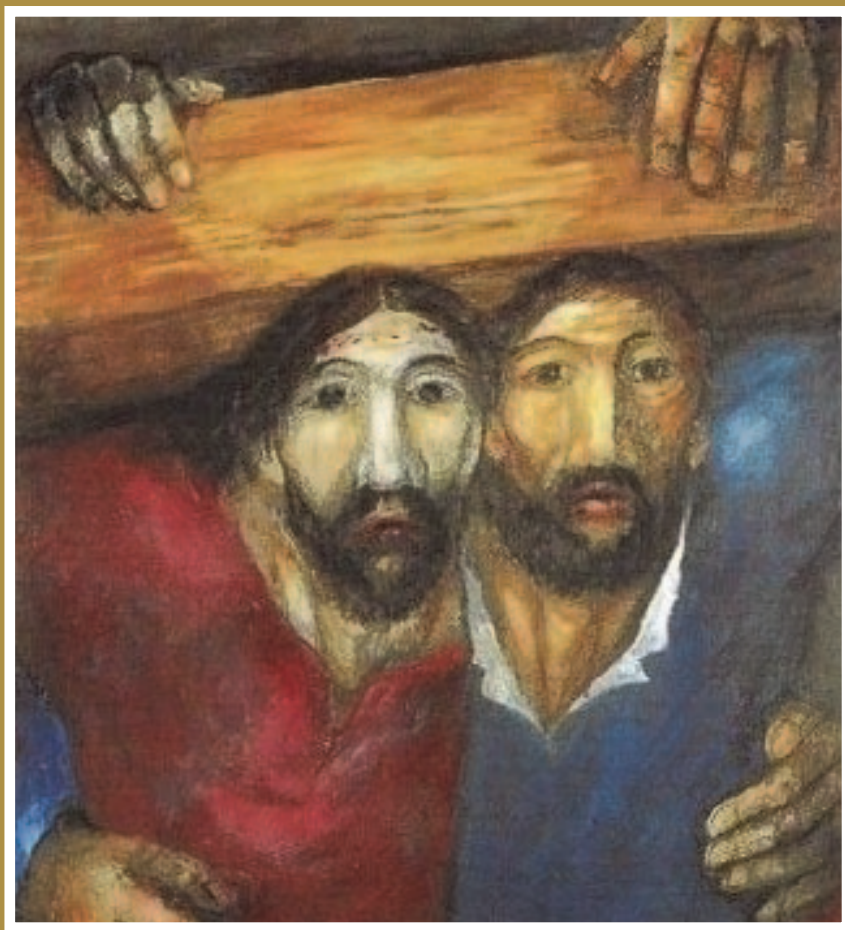
*H*is mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation,
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

Luke 1.50-53

Antiphon 2

*T*he Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

Psalm 23



God will never forget

*T*he Lord will listen and the homeless cry out and
he will never forget his people in prison

Psalm 69:33

I am poor and needy but you the
Lord God care about me

Psalm 70:5

*S*ee, I have engraved you on the
palms of my hands

Isaiah 49:16

We reflect:

God will never forget; God will never forget you
God will never forget; God will never forget you



Who is my neighbour?

Luke 10:37

*A*nd who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged ... and to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him.

We reflect Which in your opinion, was a neighbour?

"He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

We reflect:

How can we 'Go and do Likewise'?

How can we 'Go and do Likewise'?



They shared everything

Acts 4:32

*A*ll the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.

We reflect:

They shared everything

They shared everything



You did it for me

Matthew 25

*F*or I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.

We reflect:

Whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

SEASONAL SUPPERS

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Christ was sent by the Father “to bring good news to the poor, to heal the contrite of heart”,
“to seek and to save what was lost”.

Similarly, the Church encompasses with love all who are afflicted with human suffering and in the poor and afflicted sees the image of its poor and suffering Founder.

Vatican II Lumen Gentium 11

Images are from
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(1926-2015)



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