



Fratelli tutti

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL TOGETHER

Poverty

We need to develop the awareness that nowadays we are either all saved together or no one is saved. Poverty, decadence and suffering in one part of the earth are a silent breeding ground for problems that will end up affecting the entire planet. If we are troubled by the extinction of certain species, we should be all the more troubled that in some parts of our world individuals or peoples are prevented from developing their potential and beauty by poverty or other structural limitations. In the end, this will impoverish us all.

Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, paragraph 258

Watch

This is Poverty (Joseph Rowntree Foundation) <https://www.jrf.org.uk/video/this-is-poverty>

Scripture

The synagogue attendant gave Him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, and Jesus unrolled it to the place where Isaiah had written these words:

The Spirit of the Lord the Eternal One is on Me. Why? Because the Eternal designated Me to be His representative to the poor, to preach good news to them. He sent Me to tell those who are held captive that they can now be set free, and to tell the blind that they can now see. He sent Me to liberate those held down by oppression. In short, the Spirit is upon Me to proclaim that now is the time; this is the jubilee season of the Eternal One's grace.

Luke 4:17-19

Questions for discussion

- How aware am I/ are we of the poverty that exists in our community today, and the actions being taken to serve those in need?
- Am I/ Are we more comfortable thinking/ discussing poverty as something distant from us (e.g. overseas) rather than within our parish, our community, or our country?
- Gustavo Gutierrez said “*You say you love the poor? Name them!*” Does our community name, know, and welcome the poor, or do we pray for them as unknown, distant strangers?
- If poverty is rooted in systemic injustice, what can we do to achieve change in the systems which are failing to assist those in need?

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Other Church Teaching

The Church is called to bear witness to Christ by taking courageous and prophetic stands in the face of the corruption of political or economic power; by not seeking her own glory and material wealth; by using her resources to serve the poorest of the poor and by imitating Christ's own simplicity of life.

Pope Saint John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, para. 43

Love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to the Church as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, para 22

Listen

The Cry of the Poor (Psalm 34) (John Foley SJ) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD-iMC6LZF8>

Jesus Christ is waiting (John Bell/ Graham Maule) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i72yd5L-bXM>

Prayer

Creator God, Your image is alive in every human person giving to each of us an inviolable dignity. Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, the ability to work together, and a willingness to share with others our time, our energy, our skills and talents and our wealth.

As we share and enjoy the fruits of your creation, restore in us your vision of a world made whole, and inspire us to commit ourselves to the common good.

Gracious God, give us ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to love, so that we reflect you in our way of life, and in our choices, words and actions.

Jesus is the good news to the poor. As his followers, may we recognize the call to be the same.

Amen

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Further Learning

Homeless man... is the pastor? (James MacDonald) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qftpoMfe08>

Rev. Gustavo Gutierrez, O.P., "Human Dignity and Poverty" (Keynote Lecture) (McGrathND) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT1nCc_lock

Talking about poverty in the UK—what works? (JRF) <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/talking-about-poverty-uk-what-works>

They tell me to live on the streets" - Universal Credit "isn't working" (Sky News) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfhsjM9kBDQ>