

For two thousand years the Church has walked alongside the poor and has taken care of them, and this has always been an essential part of her mission.

God has turned towards his creatures, taking care of their human condition and, therefore, of their poverty. (16)

There exists an inseparable link between our faith and the poor: (36)



WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES SAY? (CHAP. 2)

- Old Testament: God is presented as the friend and liberator of the poor.
- Old Testament: God, refuge of the poor, through the prophets. (17)
- From the beginning, the love of God is manifested with dramatic intensity through the protection of the weak and the less wealthy.
- Jesus, the Messiah: in his Incarnation, He assumed the condition of a servant becoming similar to human beings.
- In the condition of exclusion, one can reassume the poverty of Jesus.
- Jesus presents himself to the world not only as the poor Messiah, but also as the Messiah of the poor and for the poor.
- "He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor."
- "In truth, I tell you: whatever you have done to one of the least of my brothers, you have done to me."



APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *DILEXI TE* OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV *ON LOVE FOR THE POOR*

WHAT DOES THE TRADITION OF THE CHURCH TEACH US UNTIL TODAY? (CHAP. 3)

The Fathers of the Church:

Recognized in the poor a privileged way to access God, a special way to meet Him.

Remembered that the Gospel is announced correctly only when it reaches out to touch the flesh of the last.

Christian tradition:



Care of the sick:

St. John of God,
St. Camillus de Lellis,
St. Louise di Marillac,
St. Vincent de Paul,
Hospital Sisters.



Monastic life and radical separation:

St. Basil the Great,
St. Benedict of Norcia,
St. Bernard of Clairvaux,
Benedictine and
Cistercian monasteries.



Freeing the prisoners:

St. John of Matha and
St. Felix of Valois
(Trinitarians), St. Peter
Nolasco and St. Raymond
of Peñafort
(Mercedarians).



Itinerant mendicant orders:

Franciscans,
Dominicans,
Augustinians,
Carmelites.



Educators of the poor:

St. Joseph Calasanz,
St. John Baptist de La Salle,
St. Marcellin Champagnat,
St. John Bosco, Ursulines,
Filippini Sisters.



Accompanying migrants:

Biblical examples
(Abraham, Moses,
Mary and Joseph, Jesus)
St. John Baptist
Scalabrini, St. Francis
Xavier Cabrini.



Alongside the least:

St. Theresa of Calcutta,
Saint Dulce of the Poor,
St. Benedict Menni,
St. Charles de Foucauld,
St. Katherine Drexel.



Popular movements:

solidarity that fights against
the structural causes of
poverty and injustice.

The Poor: the treasure and living face of the Church

All these examples teach us that serving the poor is not a gesture of going "from above to below," but a meeting of equals, where Christ is revealed and adored. (79)

In the course of the centuries, the Scriptures have asked the hearts of Christians to love and produce works of charity, as fertile seeds that never stop producing fruit. (34)

The poor are the treasures of the Church. St. Ambrose asks himself: "What more precious treasures does Jesus have than those in whom he loves to manifest himself?" (38)



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