**PRAYER FOR VTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**

**November 14, 2021**

***"You always have the poor with you" (Mk 14: 7)***

**Setting:** Images of realities of poverty that we have around us, in the middle place a cross, perfume and a candle.

**Introduction:** As Christians we are immersed in situations of poverty and marginalization. Pope Francis, on this Vth World Day of the Poor, whose motto is: you always have the poor with you, invites us not to get used to these realities, and he will push us to create fraternity, that is, to be, to seek them in order to share life, respond creatively and not miss the opportunity to do good.

**Song (3,25 minutes): Men of commitment. Jesus Adrian Romero:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuzf5sro6P8>

Men who do not conform
to the world and its condition;
men who will make commitment
to overcome all temptation.

Men who are an example
of love, justice and truth.
Men who change their world
and they are not left for him to change.

God is searching, God is calling
Men who want their world to impact,
The good news of Christ to carry.

God is searching; God is calling
Men who want God to please,

Men who want their life to deliver to Him.

**PSALM 1 - Psalm of the two ways**

**Here I am,** Lord Jesus, by the side of the road, without a path;

my steps look for your footprints where to put my footsteps,

life and death are before me as a challenge;

good and evil intersect in my heart

that tirelessly seeks, asks and calls.

**I want** to be happy, Lord Jesus, man on the way;

I want to be free with the freedom of your Gospel;

free in a sincere and determined option to your Word.

**I want to leave** behind the oppressive calls of money,

of power, of pleasure, of what deep down is nothing.

**I want to make** your Gospel the norm of life

and listen to it day and night

until it penetrates the depths of the soul.

**I want to be,** Lord Jesus,

like the tree that grows by the river

and drink deep and deep

in the water currents.

**I want to bear** fruits of peace and good in due time,

and let the seeds you have sown in me open.

Never leave, Lord,

let my green leaves wither,

nor that the wind rips them, one by one, from their branches.

**I want to follow** the path of the new man,

of the man who says yes to life and steadfastly guards it.

**I want to be** a man of spirit who fights against the flesh

and let him make love the Magna Carta,

the fundamental Law of your Kingdom,

open to the heart alive in radical defiance,

one by one, of your Beatitudes.

**Don't let me** walk the path of Cain

that carries blood;

and that at each step leaves the marks of the one who kills;

I don't want to be like straw that the wind carries

and makes her an easy game between his wings.

**I want to be** from my roots and my history

of illusions and failures,

from my struggles and my crises, a path of hope

open to eternal Life, where You dwell

and where you wait with the heart of a friend, my arrival.

**You are,** Lord Jesus, the way of a living heart;

the way of Abel,

the way of life on the cross given

for the salvation of man, of every man who seeks

in You the true and sure answer at the crossroads.

**Lord Jesus,** with you the path is smooth and light,

by carrying between you and me -the two together- this heavy load.

**I want to be** your disciple, and learn from you, Master,

to be free like the wind, in your Spirit, who guides and saves.

**Antiphon: You will always have the poor with you.**

Biblical Text Mark 14, 3-9

*While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.*

*Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.*

*“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”*

**Meditative silence...**

**Message of the Holy Father Francis, Vth World Day of the Poor**

Jesus is not only on the side of the poor, but he *shares the same fate with them*. This is an important lesson also for his disciples of all time. His words "you always have the poor with you" also indicate that their presence in our midst is constant, but that it should not lead us to become accustomed to indifference, but rather to involve ourselves in a sharing of life that does not admit delegations. The poor are not people "external" to the community, but brothers and sisters with whom they can share their suffering in order to alleviate their discomfort and marginalization, to restore their lost dignity and ensure the necessary social inclusion. On the other hand, it is known that a charity work presupposes a benefactor and a beneficiary, while sharing generates fraternity. Almsgiving is occasional, while sharing is long-lasting. The first runs the risk of gratifying the person who performs it and humiliating the person who receives it; the second reinforces solidarity and lays the necessary foundations to achieve justice. In short, believers, when they want to see and feel Jesus in person, know where to turn, the poor are the sacrament of Christ, they represent his person and refer to him (no.3):

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/messages/poveri/documents/20210613-messaggio-v-giornatamondiale-poveri-2021.html

**Claret affirms that** “the apostolic missionary must love Jesus Christ, Mary Most Holy and his neighbors (Aut. 438). This missionary "must have the heart and the tongue of fire of charity" (Aut. 440). The missionary is called to seek the treasure of love and is invited not to tire of asking for that grace (Cfr Aut. 442-443).

***Reflection:***

Only Love can enable us to be, to share life with the most vulnerable people. We are called to be managers of hope; to seek ways of respect, solidarity, justice and equity for our brothers who suffer inequality and social injustice. So that the desire to dream and work for a different reality is renewed in them.

Let's promote a society where no one feels excluded or marginalized; from love we promote brotherhood. Monsignor Romero said "Man is so much more a son of God the more he becomes a brother to men, and he is less a son of God the less he feels like a brother to his neighbor" (Homily Mons. Romero. Homily September 18, 1977, I- II p. 225). Let us begin to be brothers among ourselves and thus welcome those who have been sent.

**Personal and Community Sharing:**

**(We take a moment to reflect and then freely share)**

**Personal review:** What I have heard, how does it illuminate my life?

**As a community:** Do we carry out our life and mission from a sense of fraternity? What is our relationship with the poor, the limited and the vulnerable? What do we share with them? What do we receive from them?

**Song (2.4 minutes): My body is food. Cristobal Fones, sj / Pedro Casaldáliga**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88XH7peRWNQ&list=PLor8WanyLsWOMiKVXE-4q3riZUJGCSQuj&index=20**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88XH7peRWNQ&list=PLor8WanyLsWOMiKVXE-4q3riZUJGCSQuj&index=20)

My hands, those hands and Your hands. We do this Gesture, shared The table and destiny, as brothers. The lives in Your death and in Your life.

United in the bread the many grains, We will learn to be the one City of God, City of humans

By eating you, we will know how to be food.

The wine from his veins provokes us. The bread, which they do not have, summons us To be with you the daily bread. Called by the light of Your memory, We march to the Kingdom making history,

Fraternal and subversive Eucharist.

The wine from his veins provokes us.

The bread, which they do not have, summons us

To be with you the daily bread.

Called by the light of Your memory, We march to the Kingdom making history, Fraternal and subversive Eucharist.

**Antiphon for the Magnificat: *He fills the hungry with good things.***



***Magnificat (sung or said)***

**Spontaneous petitions:**

**Spontaneously let us address our prayers to the Lord. To each of them we respond: R // Lord, give us the grace to love as you love.**

* Increase the sensitivity to understand the needs of the poor, constantly changing as are the living conditions. **We pray to the lord**
* May we be open to reading the signs of the times that express new ways of being evangelizers in the contemporary world. **We pray to the lord**
* May we become disciples who do not accumulate treasures on earth and who give the illusion of security that is actually fragile and ephemeral. **We pray to the lord**
* May we open our hearts to recognize the multiple expressions of poverty and to manifest the Kingdom of God through a lifestyle consistent with the faith that we profess. **We pray to the lord**

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**What can we do?:** It is not a question of alleviating our conscience by giving some alms, but rather of contrasting the culture of indifference and injustice with which we treat the poor.

**Final Prayer**

****Jesus Christ, Our Good, We thank you because it is you who You encourage us to follow you, to listen to you in your Word. We want to respond to the cry of the poorest and most excluded From our Claretian mission, attending to the most urgent, timely and effective. Give us the gift of being new Apostles who, by example of Mary Immaculate let's fight against the sea in any of its forms

(Claretian Missionaries prayer adaptation)

**Hymn: TO MARY**