

PRAYER

God of Justice, open our eyes to see You in the face of the poor. Open our ears to hear You in the cries of the exploited. Open our mouths to defend You in the public squares as well as in private deeds. Loving God, help us to put love in action and to be generous in sharing our gifts and resources. Amen.

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-poor>

Then the righteous will answer Him and say, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? When did we see You ill or in prison, and visit You?' And the King will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'"

Matthew 25:37-40



Works of Mercy

CORPORAL

1. Feed the Hungry Mt 25:35
2. Give Drink to the Thirsty Mt 25:35
3. Clothe the Naked Mt 25:36
4. Shelter the Homeless Mt 25:35
5. Visit the Sick Mt 25:36
6. Visit the Imprisoned Mt 25:35
7. Bury the Dead Mt 25:40

SPIRITUAL

1. Instruct the Uninformed Mt 16:15
2. Counsel the Doubtful Jn 14:27
3. Admonish Sinners Lk 15:7
4. Bear Wrongs Patiently Lk 6:27
5. Forgive Offenses Mt 6:12
6. Comfort the Sorrowful Mt 11:28
7. Pray for the Living and the Dead Jn 17:24

***No one person can do everything,
but everyone can do something.***

POVERTY



CHURCH TEACHING

***Catechism of the Catholic Church 2444, 2448
(Quoting Centesimus annus, 57
and Libertatis conscientia, 68)***

The Church's love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition. This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. . . . Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members, has not ceased to work for their relief, defense, and liberation.



POVERTY

How often do we take for granted the basic necessities of modern living such as food, shelter, healthcare, clothing, or transportation? For many families and individuals in our nation, the smallest of economic changes can easily send them plummeting into hunger and possibly even homelessness.



Some of the underlying causes which keep people in the cycle of poverty include racism, lack of access to quality education, healthcare, and childcare.

While most of us have some idea of what the next day may bring, for others, tomorrow may be a place of frightening uncertainty. Each of us has the power to donate our time, talent, money or other resources to organizations that help people who are struggling to become financially independent.

Mother Teresa has words of wisdom for those of us who feel overwhelmed about what we can do to address poverty...



RESOURCES and IDEAS

DONATE TIME, TREASURE, &/or TALENT for a PARISH or LOCAL ORGANIZATION that serves the poor:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ccano.org/homeless-services

Lists opportunities to help the poor

SECOND HARVESTERS 504-734-1322

UNITY HOUSING

504-821-4496 unitygno.org

Collaboration of 63 organizations helping the local homeless

HARRY TOMPSON CENTER

504-273-5547 harrytompsoncenter.org

Day Shelter, Food, Hygiene, Health, Housing.

Legal & Medical Aid

OZANAM INN

504-523-1184 ozanaminn.org/services

Food, Emergency Shelter, Clothing, Medical

WRITE A LETTER to the editor or post on social media about the forgotten poor in our community

ASK A LOCAL LIBRARY to showcase poverty awareness books

TUTOR someone working on their GED

PRAY for the INTERCESSION of the patroness of the homeless, St Elizabeth of Hungary

GATHER OTHERS to PRAY TOGETHER:

catholiccharitiesusa.org/prayers_reflections/prayer-for-the-care-of-the-poor/

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GATHER OTHERS to PRAY TOGETHER

The following Prayer Service for the Poor: Catholiccharitiesusa.org/prayers_reflections/prayer-for-the-care-of-the-poor/

