



World Day of the Poor

The fifth World Day of the Poor on Sunday, 14th November 2021, was placed by Pope Francis under the motto:

For the poor you have always with you

The SVD-Partner cordially invite you again to participate in the worldwide Prayer Bridge to pray with and for the poor together with people all over the world on this day.

Registrations are now possible under www.svd-partner.eu

All registrations received by 6 p.m. local time by 13th November 2021 will be entered on the website on the world map..

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Novena Intercessions



When the other women spoke of her, they only said "the, well you know who". The men who came to her called her "my little dove" or "my deer". No one was interested in her name. But when she anointed Jesus' feet, she read her name in his eyes and wept with happiness. (Lk 7,36-50)

Good God, you always know who we are and call us by our name. Let us respectfully call each other by name, for our name is indelibly written in your hand.

It was too late. He knew he could not undo or make up for anything he had done. His life would soon be over. But Jesus beside him on the cross looked at him differently than any man ever had before. So he dared to ask him, "Forget me not." And when Jesus said, "You will be with me," all the burden fell from him. (Lk 23,39-43)

Good God, our lives are not always straight and without mistakes. Sometimes they weigh more heavily, sometimes they are only small, but still cause pain. Make our hearts ready to ask you for forgiveness, for you do not reject the repentant.

He was constantly torn, didn't know where from and where to. Sometimes he saw things one way, then another. He never knew who he was or what he wanted. He was lonely. "Legion," he would say when asked his name, "Legion, for we are many." That was until Jesus came and freed him to just be himself. (Mk 5,1-17)

Good God, in this day and age we quickly lose ourselves. Everything is hectic, everything goes faster and faster. Let us find peace and realise that we can only find our true selves in our hearts.

He had almost got used to the fact that he was useless as a blind man. Begging was the only thing he could do. That's what everyone said. But when Jesus was near him, Bartimaeus felt that his life might be different after all. He dared and cried out for help. And while the others wanted to silence him, Jesus fulfilled his request. (Mk 10,46-52)

Good God, we often go through our lives like blind men. We do not see what really matters. Let us cry out to you like Bartimaeus, for you open our eyes to real life.

She knew that she could only put a little in the offering box. She gave it gladly, but she was also ashamed. That's why she didn't want anyone to see it, because everyone disregarded and pitied her, the widow. But one sentence of Jesus changed everything: "She gives more than you rich people." Now they were ashamed. (Mk 12,41-44)

Good God, often we are stingy and do not want to share with others. Sometimes we may think that our small contribution will not make a difference. Open our hearts and hands to give what others need, no matter how little, because you give what is still needed in abundance.

Levi knew that people sought his proximity because they hoped to gain an advantage. In order to pay less tax, they flattered him, although they actually despised him. But Jesus came to him and was his guest, because he saw what no other man saw: he saw Levi as he could be. From then on, he became Levi. (Mk 2,1-12)

Good God, how often we play a role in front of others, we are not ourselves. But perhaps we are also pretending to ourselves. Open our eyes so that we can see who we really are and that you love us as we are.

Almost all his life he had been waiting to get well again. He believed that the water of the pool of Bethesda could heal him, but he was alone and no one could carry him into the water. So everything remained as it was until Jesus came and asked him if he wanted to get well. But instead of carrying him into the water, he only said, "Get up and walk. You can do it." (Joh 5,1-18)

Good God, I am sick. I don't have the strength to move to the healing waters. There is no one to help me. Open my ears so that I may hear your voice calling and healing me.

Again and again they were sent away, not allowed to be with the adults and listen to Jesus. Yet he had been in town for hours and the children finally wanted to know more. They wanted to know if he was as different as they said. Yes, he was, for he called them and said, "Come and stay," and he blessed them. (Lk 18,15-17)

Good God, you always have an open ear for children and welcome them with outstretched arms. Open our hearts so that we always realise that we must protect and love our children, for they are your gift to us.

Sometimes it was hair-raising! How was that supposed to work? Countless people were there and they were hungry. There was no market far and wide where they could buy something. Now they were supposed to provide for all these people with a few loaves and fishes. What was Jesus thinking? But they just started - and there was enough for everyone. (Mk 6,35-44)

Good God, I walk the streets of my city and see a homeless person on almost every corner. They are hungry, lonely and sick. Open my heart to give them what I have, to show them through me that you will not leave them alone.