



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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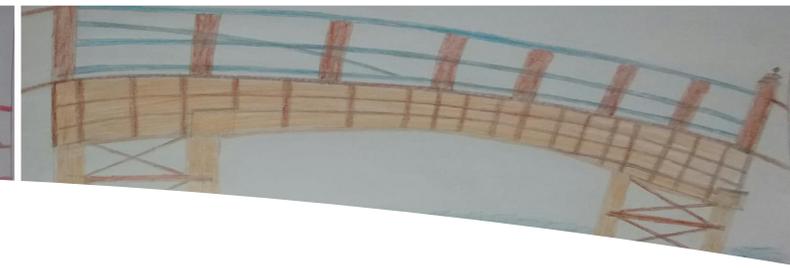
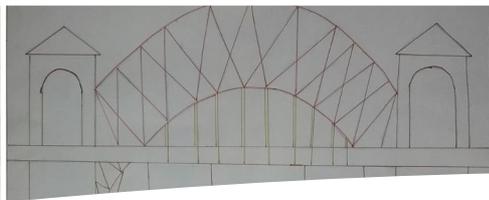
Photos:
Children from Seppa, India (bridges)
Pixabay: Şahin Sezer Dinçer



World Day of the Poor 2021

For the poor you have always with you





The Poor and Us – Us and the Poor

Anyone who walked through the street of Germany's cities during the days of the first lockdown in spring 2020 saw the streets and squares more deserted than ever before. "Stay at home" - everyone followed this advice as best as they could.

It was the same in my hometown. I remember one afternoon when my husband and I went to the main railway station. Only a few people were out like us, but on the street corners and in the station square we met homeless people and drug addicts as usual. There were probably no more than on other days, but they were more visible that day than ever before. There was no crowd to hide them from view, and there was no one to see them either. Some were wandering aimlessly, others were sitting near the entrances, angry and shouting at each other. No one gave them any money and the shops were closed. They lacked the basic needs to survive that day. Their desperation was tangible.

"You always have the poor with you." But what if we are not with the poor? I did not find an answer to that question that day. However, some people in my hometown gave an answer in those days: they packed bags of food and hung them on fences and railings in various places in the city. There homeless and needy people could take what they needed.

The poor are always with us and we are with them.

Maria Wego

Prayer

The criminal on the cross and
the corrupt tax collector,
the blind Bartimaeus and
the paralytic at the pond of Bethesda,
the insane who dwells in the burial caves, and
the prostitute who salves the feet of an itinerant preacher -
I do not see such people,
and if I do,
they usually disturb me.

But you, Jesus,
have seen just such people
and you turned to them,
healed them, saved them,
gave them a life worth living and
and made them feel God's love.

Lord,
let me see them through your eyes and
help me recognise you in them.
Give me a generous heart and
free me from my prejudices.
Give me strength and courage
to reach out to all people
and to see in them what we all are:
beloved of God.
Amen.