



Steyler Missionare
SVD-Partner



World Day of the Poor 2022

For your sakes Christ became poor





Impuls



Do you know anyone who is poor?

Mister Kargas was completely lost in thought when he was suddenly approached by a journalist in the middle of the shopping street. She held out a large microphone to him and asked, “Do you know anyone who is poor?”

Mister Kargas kept silent and thought about what to do. At first he wanted to go on, but then stopped.

“Why do you want to know?” he finally asked.

“We are doing a feature on the new poverty report,” she explained, “to be broadcast tonight.”

Mister Kargas nodded. “I just saw a beggar,” he muttered. “But I don't know him, of course.”

The cameraman came closer and took a close-up of Mister Kargas. He took a step back.

“Maybe you do know someone,” the journalist said. “In your neighbourhood? Or maybe even in your family? Think about it.”

Mister Kargas thought. He saw some faces in front of him: the face of a dead-tired young woman he met in the evening when he took his dog for a walk and that of an old man who regularly looked for deposit bottles in the waste bin at the bus stop. Were they poor? Probably. But he didn't know them.

The journalist was getting impatient. “Well?” she asked.

“I'm sorry,” said Mister Kargas. “I don't know anyone. But thank you for your question. I will change that now.”

“What?” she asked, astonished, as the cameraman withdrew again.

“Well, I will soon know people who are poor. I just have to meet them first.” Without waiting for a reply, Mister Kargas went on his way, determined to greet the young woman and the old man from now on. As a start.

– *To be continued* –

Katharina Johann



Prayer
Novena Intercessions



Prayer

People talk about their hunger,
about misery and need.
They report on their flight,
of destruction and danger.

They cry and lament unheard.
They suffer silently and unrecognised.

Let me ask them like Jesus
What shall I do for you?
Let me listen to them,
Understand their thoughts and feelings.

Let us stand together.
May you, God, be at our side.

Amen.

Novena Intercessions

The price stays the same - the bread gets smaller

Nairobi/Kenya – Prices are rising worldwide. Bakers in the markets of Nairobi have to pay more for flour and energy. But they cannot sell their breads more expensively, because their customers also have less and less money in their wallets. So the bakers simply make the loaves smaller. “There is no other way,” says Omoni M. and fears that he will soon have to charge more - for the smaller loaves.

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the markets of this world, have mercy on us.

Refugees and refugees

Warsaw/Poland – Since the invasion of Russian troops into Ukraine, people have been seeking protection from the war in the countries of the European Union. They come mainly from the north and east of the country. But among them are also people from Africa and the Middle East. The people in Ukraine had given them shelter from hunger and the war in their home countries. Now they are all refugees. “We thought we were safe,” say Olena S. and Mohamed A.

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the refugee camps of this world, have mercy on us.



Poor, but at least not hungry

La Paz/Bolivia – More and more people are moving to the cities to escape poverty in the countryside. Only a few, like Diego O., stay in there. Although he is disappointed that he did not get enough money for his potato harvest to buy the school uniform for his daughter, he still returns. “It's hard to find work in the city too,” he says, “but in the village at least we have potatoes and vegetables from our own fields and don't have to go hungry.”

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the remote villages of this world, have mercy on us.

Drugs instead of rice

New Delhi/India – Drug use is on the rise in parts of India. Those responsible see the development with concern, because it is not only the drug addicts who suffer, but also always their families. “Children steal money from their parents to buy drugs,” says social worker Jasleen Y. “Then not infrequently the whole family goes hungry.” Above all, she sees education as the key in the fight against drugs. “That's the only thing that leads out of misery.”

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the drug-suffering families of this world, have mercy on us.

Death lurks in the fields

Abuja/Nigeria - Many fields in the north of the country lie fallow. Terrorist militias or criminal gangs spread fear and terror in the villages. The people are defenceless against them. Solomon U. has stayed in his house since his son was shot on the way to the field. He wonders how to go on, because now he alone is responsible for his grandchildren. And they are hungry. So, despite all his fear, he will probably go to the field soon.

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the terror-stricken lands of this world, have mercy on us.

„TafelIn“ at their limit

Berlin/Germany - “I wouldn't know what to do without the Tafel,” says Paula W., packing her shopping bag. More and more people are feeling the same way since the prices for food and energy have been rising. Among them are more and more pensioners, but also many refugees from Ukraine. But TafelIn all over Germany are now reaching their limits, because the many people in need of help are being met by fewer and fewer donations.

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the aid organisations of this world, have mercy on us.



Death on prescription

Washington/USA - Social workers regularly stop by in the bushes near the crossroads. In the camping tents live some people who have lost everything: their families, their homes, their health, their lives. "Back pain - that's where it started for many of them," explains social worker Ronald O. "That's why they got these pills from their doctor, and now they're a wreck." He and his colleagues check in regularly, call the ambulance if necessary, but unfortunately often the hearse.

Jesus, our brother, God with us with the people in the streets of this world, have mercy on us.

The water took everything

Sydney/Australia - They have just put everything back together and now they have to watch their house sink again in the floodwaters. Henry S. is sitting in a lifeboat with his family. What they could still save is stowed in a few bags. The intervals between one flood and the next are getting shorter and shorter. "The climate," he says tonelessly, staring at the floods. "I wonder if we can rebuild our house again. We have nothing left. Nothing."

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the flood zones of this world, have mercy on us.

Give them food

Berlin/Germany- Food trucks are at every festival and every self-respecting market. Exotic, vegan, hearty, fiery - there is something for every taste, but not for every budget. "Nobody should go hungry," says Anna B. and continues to chop vegetables in her food truck. Once a week, she and her partner Mark T. cook for the needy and homeless. "All enthusiastic customers," the two are pleased to say.

Jesus, our brother, God with us in the helping people of this world, have mercy on us.

All reports are inspired by reports in the media, but otherwise freely invented.

"Tafel" is a private initiative in Germany that gives food to those in need.



World Day of the Poor

The sixth World Day of the Poor on Sunday, 13th November 2022 was placed by Pope Francis under the motto:

For

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 **12th November 2022** 6 pm local time will be added to the world map on the website.

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About the cover photo
In Mumbai, the “Disciples of the Divine Word”, Lay Partners of the Divine Word Missionaries, bring food to the needy every Saturday.