



Steyler Missionare
SVD Lay Associates
Arnold Janssen



World Day of the Poor 2026

The Lord is the Refuge of the Poor



Prayer

Novena Impulstexts



Prayer

God, Refuge of the Poor

There is no magic wand
that gives the hungry a Wishing Table,
the ragged a ball gown,
and the poor a golden goose.

God, it is you
who are the refuge of the poor,
who moves the hearts of people,
so that no one remains hungry, naked or poor.

Help me, God, to set the table for the hungry,
to give clothing to the ragged, and
to work for a life of dignity for all people.

Amen.

Novena Impulstexts

God is the refuge of the poor, and he sends us to them to stand by their side. This is made particularly clear in the 'Parable of the Son of Man's Judgement of the Nations' (Mt 25:35–36). We therefore invite you, during the nine days leading up to the World Day of the Poor, to reflect on the story 'Ina's Diary' against this background and to enter into dialogue with God about it.

Ina's Diary

Ina packed a few jumpers, trousers, socks and underwear into a large rucksack, along with her toothbrush, comb and old thermos bottle. Then she walked round her small flat to check she hadn't forgotten anything. Strictly speaking, it wasn't her flat any more, as she hadn't been able to pay the rent for a long time. That was why the owner was planning to kick her out tomorrow. Judging by the way he'd spoken, he seemed to be



looking forward to it. But Ina had decided not to give him that satisfaction. She picked up a small notebook from the kitchen table, on which she'd written 'Ina's Diary' in beautiful letters, and slipped it, along with a pen, into the outer pocket of her full rucksack. Then she walked quickly to the door, closed it behind her and left the key in the lock from the outside. Not a single glance back. It didn't help.

From Ina's diary

6 January – My new jacket is brilliant! It's warm, has loads of pockets and has a lovely blue colour. I've been putting the money from bottle returns aside for a whole year to buy it. Luckily, Marco from the kiosk kept it safe for me; otherwise, it would definitely have been stolen. I bought him a coffee to say thank you. He didn't want it, but I did it anyway.

God, help me to be open to what is given to me.

From Ina's diary

16 March – My pen had stopped working, but luckily it's election campaign season now. The people at the campaign stand realised I couldn't vote for them – I don't have an address any more, after all – but they gave me some anyway. I accepted them from this party. If it were anyone else, I'd rather stop writing this diary than use a pen with their logo on it. I won't sink that low.

God, help me never to betray my values, even in times of need

From Ina's diary

1 May – I've now got a postbox at Caritas. Maybe I'll get an apartment again at some point. But first, work. I've just had an offer for both together. But I didn't trust it. The rent was taken straight out of my wages – I'd certainly never have seen a penny of it, I'm sure of that. All-inclusive – that's only a good deal on holiday.

God, help me always to give other people what they're entitled to.



From Ina's diary

25 July – I went to see the doctor today. I couldn't stand the pain in my leg any longer. Luckily, there's this mobile clinic where people get treated for free. I was given some balm and tablets for the pain. It's helping! When the doctor said, 'Come back next week for a check-up, Mrs Hartmann,' I nearly burst into tears. It's been ages since anyone's called me Mrs Hartmann!

God, help me to always treat others with respect.

From Ina's diary

15 August – I went to 10! supermarkets today. The best thing to do in this heat. All I can say is: air conditioning! You wouldn't know from looking at me that I don't have a home anymore. So I can get away with it. I walked slowly through the rows, but not too slowly, so they wouldn't think I was trying to pick something up. I bought a cold bottle of lemonade in two shops. Lovely!

God, help me not to treat people with suspicion.

From Ina's diary

12 September – I often go to church. I like the music and the peace and quiet there. Today the priest spoke to me. He said I'd caught his eye because I always sit in the same seat. 'So do you,' I replied, but he didn't even smile. He simply has no sense of humour; you can tell from his sermons. I must ask God if there's anything He can do about it.

God, help me to approach others in a friendly and cheerful way.

From Ina's diary

3 November – From now on, I'll always need a 1-Euro coin for the locker at the city library. Then I can read there all day and sit in the warmth! I can't borrow anything but there are bookcases all over the city. Ever since a woman there said to me, 'Now, make yourself comfortable on the sofa', I only go there late in the evening when there's no one left on the streets.

God, help me to choose my words wisely.



From Ina's diary

11 November – It's cold, absolutely freezing. Luckily, I can sleep at Moni's. She's gone to her mum's. She's not feeling well. Moni trusts me, and I won't let her down. I haven't told anyone where I'm sleeping, so that no one gets any silly ideas. Hopefully it'll be warmer again by the time dear Moni comes back.

God, help me to trust others, even if they live differently to me.

From Ina's diary

26 December – Toni was beaten up. Just like that. It happened at his favourite spot, where he always felt so safe. But you're never really safe anywhere. I only feel safe with Moni and Heinz. Heinz is a good person. He doesn't want anything from me. I can often have a shower at his apartment or even stay the night. He does that because we know each other for ages. I hope Toni gets better.

God, help me to give people a sense of safety and security.



Devotional Resources



World Day of the Poor - Devotional Resources

SVDLA Arnold Janssen

Prayers and Novenas all texts - since 2018

<https://www.svd-partner.eu/welttag-der-armen/>

Readings

James 2:14–17 – Faith and Deeds

Luke 10:25–37 – The Good Samaritan

Luke 16:19–31 – The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 18:9–14 – The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 19:1–10 – Zacchaeus the tax collector in Jericho

Mark 12:41–44 – The Exemplary Widow

Mark 14:3–9 – The Anointing of Jesus in the House of Simon the Leper

Matthew 25:31–40 – The Parable of the Judgement of the Nations

Tobit 4:7–11 – Tobit's Legacy to His Son

Kyrie

Let us call upon Christ and ask for his mercy:

Jesus, Friend of the poor and the outcasts – Kyrie eleison.

Jesus, Friend of the bewildered and the restless – Christe eleison

Jesus, Friend of the oppressed and the afflicted – Kyrie eleison.

You, Lord, are our hope. – Lord, have mercy.

In You, Lord, we can always place our trust. – Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, give us security and support at all times. – Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, all too often we look away because the plight of another makes us uncomfortable. – Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, all too often we turn away so as not to have to hear a silent cry for help.

– Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, all too often we are uncertain or hesitant and miss the chance to help.

– Lord, have mercy on us.



Lord Jesus Christ, you want us to love our neighbours and not to pass by when someone is in need. Grant us mindfulness, courage, energy and an open heart. For you dwell amongst us, today and for ever. Amen.

Intercession

God, give us the seeing and helping heart of the Good Samaritan, so that we may turn away the distress of our neighbour.

God, give us the insight of Zacchaeus the tax collector, so that we may not live at the expense of others or exploit them.

God, let us see the needs of our neighbours and stand by them.

God, let us work actively towards a just world in which all people can live in peace and without suffering.

God, help us to speak out on behalf of those who have no voice in our society.

God, let us clothe the naked, feed the hungry and give the homeless a home.

God, open our eyes and our hearts to the often hidden needs of our neighbours.

See also all texts – since 2018

<https://www.svd-partner.eu/welttag-der-armen/>



World Day of the Poor

The tenth World Day of the Poor
on Sunday, 15th November 2026
was placed by Pope Leo XIV under the motto:
The Lord is the Refuge of the Poor

The SVD Lay Associates Arnold Janssen 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.

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