

“THE
PRAYER
OF THE
POOR
RISES
UP TO
GOD.”

(CF. SIR 21:5)

ENTRANCE SONG : [FRATELLO](#)

Pope Francis invites us all to learn to pray for the poor and to pray alongside them, with humility and trust. It is an opportunity to become aware of the presence of the poor in our cities and communities, and to understand their needs. God listens to the prayers of the poor and, in the face of their suffering, is "impatient" until justice is done for them.

The Pope reiterates that the poor have a privileged place in the heart of God, who is attentive and close to each one of them, and we ask ourselves:

What place do the poor occupy in our hearts?

Are we attentive and close to them?

Brief silence.

We listen to reality...

There are 165 million more poor people in the world.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published a new report last year indicating that, between 2020 and 2023, 165 million more people had fallen below the poverty line. The UN emphasizes that the situation has escalated in recent years amid a crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Of them, 75 million are in extreme poverty.[1]

● ● ●

The concerning outlook means that more than 20% of the global population, around 1.65 billion citizens, currently live on less than \$3.65 per day, struggling to secure food on a daily basis. And those in extreme poverty try to survive on an average of 2.15 dollars a day.

Amid the consequences of the crises, the increases in interest rates make poorer nations now spend double or triple their income on debt servicing, compared to the richer ones. And about 2.3 times more in interest payments than in social assistance. "Particularly for low-income countries, the debt burden has become unsustainable," as Steiner pointed out.[2] Among the possible measures to address the increase in poverty, the United Nations urged the world's finance ministers to grant poor countries "a pause" in debt payments.

This means that a government will no longer be able to pay its teachers, employ more doctors and nurses in hospitals, and will not be able to provide medicines for rural health centers. The UN highlights that all 165 million additional people in poverty are in low-income or lower-middle-income countries.



We listen the video-song: [Amigo de los Pobres \(Friend of the poor\)](#)



We listen to the Word...

"The proud despises the humble, the rich despises the needy." The rich man stumbles, and his neighbor supports him; the poor man stumbles, and his neighbor pushes him: the rich man speaks, and many approve, and even if he speaks nonsense, they congratulate him; the poor man makes a mistake and is filled with reproaches; he speaks correctly and is ignored; the rich man speaks, and they listen to him in silence, and praise his talent to the skies; the poor man speaks, and they say: who is he?, and if he falls, they push him down further... The prayer of the poor rises to God, and God grants him justice immediately." (Si 13, 21-23. 21,5).

We pray together: Psalm 34 (33)

*R / This poor man cries out and the Lord hears him;
he saves him from all his anguish.*



We listen to the Church... Message for the VIII World Day of the Poor

"The Christian hope also embraces the certainty that our prayer reaches the presence of God; but not just any prayer: the prayer of the poor!" Let's reflect on this Word and "read it" in the faces and stories of the poor we encounter, so that prayer may be a way to enter into communion with them and share their suffering. [*Message for the VIII World Day of the Poor, n° 1.*]

"The poor have a privileged place in the heart of God." God sees and cares for each one of them, while those who seek wealth at the expense of the most needy are poor in the eyes of the Lord. Happiness is not acquired by trampling on the rights and dignity of others. [*Id n°4*]



"God knows the sufferings of His children because He is a caring and solicitous Father to all." As a Father, take care of those who need it most: the poor, the marginalized, those who suffer, the forgotten. But no one is excluded from His heart, for before Him, we are all poor and in need. We are all beggars, because without God we would be nothing. [*Id n°4*]

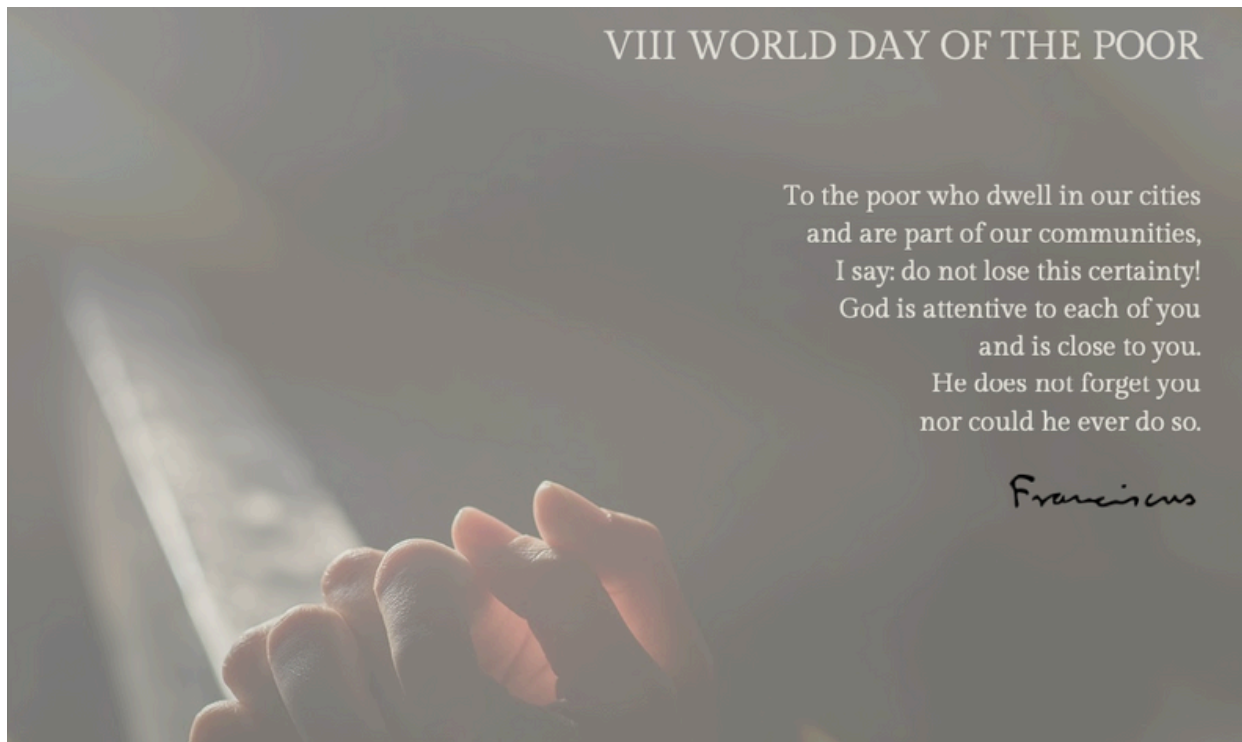
"Each Christian and each community are called to be instruments of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, so that they can fully integrate into society; this means we must be docile and attentive to listen to the cry of the poor and assist them." [*Exhortación Apostólica Evangelii Gaudium, n° 187*]

"To the poor who live in our cities and are part of our communities, I say: do not lose hope!" God is attentive to each one of you and is by your side [*Message for the VIII World Day of the Poor, n° 6.*]

Prayer of intercession:

We can take the time to give thanks for significant encounters we have had with people living in poverty, and entrust them to the Lord...

Our Father...



Final prayer, inspired by the message of Pope Francis

**O God of peace, our Father, You know the sufferings of Your children, for
You are attentive and caring toward all.**

**No one is excluded from Your heart, since, before You, we are all in need.
You call us to be Your instruments for the liberation and betterment of
the poor, so that they may be fully integrated into society.**

**O Lord Jesus, who first stood in solidarity with the lowliest, teach us to
listen to the prayer of the poor. Help us to place ourselves at their service,
giving a voice to the response of Your Father and ours, who never
abandons those who turn to Him.**

**O Holy Spirit, giver of life, make us vigilant and persevering in prayer so
that we may welcome the poor, recognizing and serving Christ in them
and may we learn from them.**

**O Blessed Mary, Virgin of the Poor, since God has looked upon Your
humble poverty, accomplishing great things by Your obedience, we entrust
our prayer to You, convinced that it will be heard.**

Amen. Alleluia!

[1] ONU, Informe "El costo humano de la inacción: pobreza, protección social y servicio de la deuda (2020-2023)"
[2] Achim, Steiner, director ejecutivo del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA).