

## Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering is next Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
- Next Sunday we will have our final Safe Environment training sessions before our Gathering in the library at 3:15pm and immediately following in the gym. Everyone 18 years and older are encouraged to attend since we all serve at our events.
- Recommitting to our covenant is our 2022 CCGD priority. The coordinators have shared about key elements this year. Please take time to listen to the sharings on the [Covenant Life page](#).
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

The first reading, responsorial psalm, alleluia verse and the Gospel today all address the issue of money and poverty. We do not need to drive very far in our cities to be confronted with the reality of poverty. How are we to respond?

I must confess that the first thing that usually comes to my mind when I think about the poor is Jesus' response to Mary's anointing of His feet "*The poor you will always have with you*". It is an easy excuse to dismiss the poor because the problem is so big, seemingly unsolvable...

Other common responses are simply ignoring the ask, worrying about how our help will be used, criticizing past decisions the poor have made, blaming civil systems that are supposed to help, and a range of other possibilities that I, and maybe you, are guilty of.

Much has been written explaining Jesus' response and putting it in the context of the passage from Deuteronomy 15:1-11 but what I suggest meditating on today is going beyond a better understanding of what Jesus meant, to what is being asked of us today.

I think it was Fr. Richard Rohr who first shared with me the words "**preferential option for the poor.**" His point was to encourage imitation of Christ's love for the poor by building a society where the needs of the poor are considered first. This certainly follow from an examination of Jesus' ministry and the strong words in Math 25:31-46, especially verses 35 and 36, "*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.*"

For Catholics, this is eloquently covered in the Catechism CCC 2448 "In its various forms - material deprivation, unjust oppression, physical and psychological illness and death - human misery is the obvious sign of the inherited condition of frailty and need for salvation in which man finds himself as a consequence of original sin. This misery elicited the compassion of Christ the Savior, who willingly took it upon himself and identified himself with the least of his brethren. Hence, those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members, has not ceased to work for their relief, defense, and liberation through numerous works of charity which remain indispensable always and everywhere."

Our response it clear, not only are we to preferentially love and support the poor in our civil and medical systems but we should go out of our way to personally follow Jesus' example and really love and support the person in front of us, day after day. Reflect again on His words "*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.*" It is hard for Him to be any clearer...and scary to ignore...

*Let us pray. "Jesus, You know my love for You, I ask You today to forgive any past lack of love for those that make up Your body. Today I ask for the grace to love everyone You bring into my life. I make a special request that I am able to preferentially love those in most need. Show me how to love them as You love them, to care for them as You would care for them. Give me the gifts and fruits of Your Holy Spirit to empower my words and deeds. Thank You. I love You! Amen."*

God Bless,  
David