



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

October 17, 2017

Call to Prayer: Open with an appropriate song.

Leader: Good and gracious God, bless the cry of the hungry, who have gone without for too long. We ask for your grace on those who could share their wealth and resources with others. We are resolved to tackle this enormous issue in collaboration with those living in poverty, but we can only do so with your help. We ask for your wisdom and guidance to remove this scandal from our world, which you have blessed with such abundance. Amen

Reader(s): Defining “Neighbor” Luke 10:25-37 (MSG)

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. “Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?”

He answered, “What’s written in God’s Law? How do you interpret it?”

He said, “That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself.”

“Good answer!” said Jesus. “Do it and you’ll live.”

Looking for a loophole, he asked, “And just how would you define ‘neighbor’?”

Jesus answered by telling a story. “There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

“A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the



morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.' "What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

"The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

Word of God, word of life

All: Word of God, word of life.

How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care? Without a roof over their heads?"
- Pope John Paul II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 50

Reader: Based on the updated poverty line of \$1.90 a day, World Bank projections suggest that global poverty may have reached 700 million, or 9.6 percent of global population, in 2015. ¹

ALL: We are neighbors.

Reader: Eighty percent of the worldwide poor live in rural areas; 64 percent work in agriculture; 44 percent are 14 years old or younger; and 39 percent have no formal education at all. ²

ALL: We are neighbors.

Reader: Every day, 800 women die from causes related to pregnancy, childbirth, or postpartum. Most maternal deaths occurred in developing countries. ³

ALL: We are neighbors.

Reader: In developing countries nearly half of all mothers and newborns do not receive skilled care during and immediately after birth. ⁴

ALL: We are neighbors.

Reader: Eleven children under age 5 die every minute, and 35 mothers die during childbirth every hour. ⁶

ALL: We are neighbors.



Reader: Across 96 countries, around 1 billion children ages 2 to 17 experienced some form of violence in the past year. ⁶

ALL: We are neighbors.

Quiet reflection on the question, *“What do you think is the best way to eradicate poverty?”*

Reader:

"The times talk to us of so much poverty in the world and this is a scandal. Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry."

— Pope Francis, *Meeting with Students of Jesuit Schools, Q & A, June 2013*

Sharing: With one other person, share

“What do you think is the best way to eradicate poverty?”

ALL: Closing Prayer

God of Justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of the poor.
Open our ears to hear you in the cries of the exploited.
Open our mouths to defend you in the public squares as well as in private deeds.

Remind us that what we do to the least, we do to you.
Amen.

—from *Being Neighbor, the Catechism and Social Justice*, Catholic Campaign for Human Development,
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Sources:

¹ [World Bank Group. 2016. Global Monitoring Report 2015/2016: Development Goals in an Era of Demographic Change. Overview booklet. World Bank, Washington, DC. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO](#)

² [World Bank. 2016. Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Inequality. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-0958-3. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO](#)

³ [World Bank Group. 2015. Global Monitoring Report 2014/2015: Ending Poverty and Sharing Prosperity. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-0336-9. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO](#)

⁴ World Health Organization Media Centre Fact sheet N°333. Newborns: Reducing Mortality, January 2016.

⁵ [UNDP. Human Development Report 2016. Human Development for Everyone.](#)

⁶ [UNESCO, 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report Gender Review: Creating Sustainable Futures for All.](#)

