

# LEARN FROM THE POOR

## Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings  
of the Roman Catholic Church

### “THE FACE OF GOD”

The face of God revealed by Jesus is that of a Father concerned for and close to the poor... Jesus teaches that poverty is not the result of fate, but a concrete sign pointing to His presence among us.

### “NEW WAYS”

The poor, always and everywhere, evangelize us, because they enable us to discover in new ways the true face of the Father.

### “POWERFUL LESSON”

Jesus not only sides with the poor; He also shares their lot. This is a powerful lesson for His disciples in every age..

### POINT TO JESUS

... Believers, when they want to see Jesus in person and touch Him with their hands, know where to turn. The poor are a sacrament of Christ; they represent His person and point to Him.



### CONSISTENT LIFE-STYLE

We need ... wholeheartedly to follow the Lord’s invitation to “repent and believe in the Gospel”... This conversion consists primarily in opening our hearts to recognizing the many different forms of poverty and manifesting the Kingdom of God through a life-style consistent with the faith we profess.

### OPEN TO GRACE

Unless we choose to become poor in passing riches, worldly power and vanity, we will never be able to give our lives in love; we will live a fragmented existence, full of good intentions but ineffective for transforming the world. We need ... to open ourselves decisively to the grace of Christ, which can make us witnesses of His boundless charity and restore credibility to our presence in the world.

### GIFTS FROM THE POOR

There are many forms of poverty among the “rich” that might be relieved by the wealth of the “poor”, if only they could meet and get to know each other! None are so poor that they cannot give something of themselves in mutual exchange. The poor cannot be only those who receive; they must be put in a position to give, because they know well how to respond with generosity... The poor often teach us about solidarity and sharing.

### “IN OUR MIDST”

The poor are present in our midst. How evangelical it would be if we could say with all truth: we too are poor, because only in this way will we truly be able to recognize them, to make them part of our lives and an instrument of our salvation.

(Source: Message for World Day of the Poor, 6/13/21)

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