

*Today we focus our prayer on.....*

# PLEASING MORE OUR MOTHER POVERTY



## 1. Introduction:

When we hear the word “poverty,” we can think of many things: poverty of spirit, lack of love, isolation, etc. On World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis invites us to focus on material poverty in which individuals, families, and communities lack access to the basic things they need to live and thrive: nutritious food, adequate housing, safe neighborhoods, good education, healthcare, and decent jobs with fair pay, for example.

But for us, Poverty is a testimony and attitude that we cannot stop living if we want to be faithful to our charism. *The poverty we are called to, is an evangelical poverty which is total trust in God and God’s plan of salvation.* It is sharing fraternally and in solidarity with our sisters and brothers. It is a poverty which is freedom before powers and the goods of this world that are not the goods of all humanity. On the one hand, it is a real poverty and solidarity. It is also a prophetic testimony of freedom before that which does not build the Kingdom.

## 2. Proposal of the biblical text

Luke 18: 18 - 27. ***“Go, sell all you have, give it to the poor, you will have a treasure and follow me”.***

***Some keys to prayer:***

- Would I consider myself a good person?
- Am I good enough to gain favor with God? How do I know? What if God pointed out some deficient area of my life? Would I quickly respond in repentance or get ensnared in the fight to keep living the way I had been?

***It is often difficult to assess our love for riches unless we have forsaken them.***

- What ways have I proven that I do not love riches and some attachments?

## 3. Proposal from our founders:

- The poor missionary in imitation of his Divine Master must not look for what gives pleasure but look for the poorest, because the disciple is not greater than the master.
- The poor missionary must always see what will be cheaper for her accounting, giving a good amount to her brothers and spending less.

- It is very unpleasant by always displeases more to Holy Poverty.
- ... she will have to give an account to God of what he has wasted in the house of the Lord.

#### 4. Proposal of clues with which to pray the texts

The texts about the “rich young man,” have always been a key text as an invitation to follow Jesus. "Go, sell what you have, give it to the poor and you will have a treasure in heaven. Then, come and follow me". (Mk 10, 17-22; Mt 19, 16, **Lk 18,18**). María Antonia sees in this text the key to understanding the real and effective Evangelical Poverty.

Poverty is a form of life that concerns not only the possession of things, but everything that gives us a sense of security. The possession of something, the attachment to something, may it be external or interior, is an obstacle for God to give himself to us, to fill our hearts up with His goodness. That's why: "go, sell and give", because "you cannot serve two lords": God and material things... Wealth, although gained honestly and administered honestly, may be a source of temptation and worries and then, we always have the risk of putting our trust on it. Too easily we count on it, and we place in it our security, and when we get "wrapped up" in it, we lose the horizon and the vision of the true riches.

To live and to love Evangelical Poverty doesn't have other motivation than the fact that CHRIST, "our Good", has manifested himself among us poor. He is the only one that can introduce the human being into the mystery of poverty and to induce him to embrace a poor life. The question why choose a poor lifestyle instead of a wealthy rich life?, has a simple answer: because Christ espoused poverty throughout his life; because Christ chose poor means for his work; because Christ wanted poverty as a companion of his existence and his mission. The contemplation of Christ's poverty has always been refreshing and a source of new inspiration for the Church.

#### 5. Proposal for conclusion:

- **Word of Maria Antonia Paris:** “I have no other riches but the poverty and Cross of Jesus Christ”

When I look at the cross, I see love that is given till the end,  
I see the most free forgiveness, I see the surrender without  
limits into the hands of the Father.

I see the deepest solitude of the Son of God, I see the mercy  
that embraces all.

I see and learn. I stay in silence. I see and let myself be loved  
like this.

And when I feel the cross in my life, let me remember that He has  
already lived through it.

I see and i find strength of the Kingdom of God to bring it forth to others.

