

# Season Five - Week 1

## Loving the Poor

As disciples, we share in Jesus' mission of saving love and are challenged to put our love and service into action.

The Gospel is very clear about compassion for and solidarity with the poor. If we are to follow Jesus, we, too, must be compassionate toward the poor. Despite many efforts in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to alleviate poverty, the gap between rich and poor – be they individuals or nations – is expanding. We are all faced with caring for and empowering the poor and renewing society so that no one will be without basic human necessities. As Christians, our responsibility extends beyond our desire to support ourselves and our families.



- ◆ *Matthew 11: 4—6* Jesus calls us through his Church to solidarity with people who have little or nothing in terms of basic human needs.
- ◆ *Matthew 25: 31-36* Jesus tells us that he will recognize his chosen ones by the efforts they have made on behalf of those who are needy and poor.
- ◆ *Ephesians 4: 28* St. Paul reminds us that part of the reason that Christians work is so they may have something to share with the needy.
- ◆ *James 5: 1-6* Those who exploit the weak in order to amass greater wealth for themselves are sharply condemned.

“God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor and rebukes those who turn away from them. ‘Give to him who begs from you, do not refuse him who should borrow from you’; ‘you received without pay, give without pay.’ It is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognize his chosen ones. When ‘the poor have the good news preached to them,’ it is the sign of Christ’s presence.”  
(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2443)

“The Church’s love for the poor...is a part of her constant tradition.’ This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working, so as to ‘be able to give to those in need.’ It extends not only to material poverty, but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty.”  
(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2444)

## Reflect

In my present circumstances, how is Jesus calling me to become more generous and caring in relation to the poor around me?