

Calls to Serve the Poor

1 John 3:17-18 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Deuteronomy 15:7,11 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. There will always be poor people in your land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Psalms 41: 1-2 Blessed is he who has regard for the weak, the LORD delivers him in time of trouble. The LORD will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land, and not deliver him to the desire of his foes.

Proverbs 19:17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.

Proverbs 31:8-9 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and the needy.

Matthew 6:1-2 Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

Matthew 25:42-45 "For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me." They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, or a stranger or needing clothes, or sick or in prison, and did not help you?" He will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least among you, you did not do for me"

Luke 12:33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

St. Vincent de Paul To make God known to the poor, to tell them that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand and that it is for the poor. O how great that is, so sublime is it to preach the gospel to the poor, that is, above all, the office of the Son of God.

Mother Teresa The more repugnant the work, the greater should be our faith and cheerful devotion. That we feel the repugnance is but natural, but when we overcome it for love of Jesus we may become heroic. Very often it has happened in the lives of saints that a heroic overcoming of repugnance has been the key to a high sanctity. Such was the case of Saint Francis of Assisi, who when meeting a leper completely disfigured, drew back, but then overcoming himself, kissed the terribly disfigured face. The result was that Francis was filled with an untold joy. He became the complete master of himself and the leper walked away praising God for his cure. When we handle the sick and needy we touch the suffering body of Christ and this touch will make us heroic; it will make us forget the repugnance and the natural tendencies in us. We need the eyes of deep faith to see Christ in the broken body and dirty clothes under which the most beautiful one among the sons of men hides. We shall need the hands of Christ to touch these bodies wounded by pain and suffering.