

# Reflections

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## **Small and Poor – God’s Favorites**

In the last Council, the Church in our time defined herself, solemnly, as “the Church of the Poor.” Why? Simply because the Church cannot betray her own, those of her same origin.

The Church wants to intervene in favor of the small ones, the poor ones, because facing each one of them, the Christian should say to himself: this man reminds me of my God, the simple carpenter from Nazareth; this woman reminds me of Mary, my humble Mother.

Christ freely chose to be born among the poor because He was bringing them the Good News of the Gospel: that God has the heart of a Father who loves with preference the small, the simple, the poor.

The God of the Gospel is the God of the poor, and Mary is the first one who announces it in her beautiful canticle of the Magnificat: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; Because He has regarded the lowliness of his handmaid; He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty” (LK 1 47f).

The Church of today wants to be a Church of the poor because it wants to renew itself in the spirit of Jesus and Mary. Each time She has been accused of compromising Herself with the money of the powerful, it has been because She has betrayed her Mother, because She has disfigured Christ born of Her in the poor home of a carpenter.

God loves the poor by preference because they suffer. Every father wants his children to be happy and, therefore, he is especially concerned for those who are not. *“Come to me all you who are afflicted and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Christ came to announce to the poor that God wants to liberate them from their misery so that they may enjoy fully the riches which the Father has created for them. Within these riches is also economic wellbeing: God wants all men to have a life worthy of their being His children.

God loves with preference the small ones because they have an open heart. The main richness which God wants to make us aware of is His life of love. And love is not received with the hands, rather only if one has an open heart, the soul of a child. This is a typical trait of the poor, and therefore, God loves them. Because they are not attached to many material things, the poor feel empty and can easily open themselves to the love of God and others.

In our time, the awareness of solidarity with the small, those in need, and the poor increases. And moreso we, as Christians, have to commit ourselves in this struggle for those who are of the same origin of our God and of our Heavenly Mother. But we have to make our own contribution: we have to give soul to this struggle.

And this, because Christians want that our country – in addition to overcoming its economic problems – preserves a simple soul of a poor man, an open heart to the greatest of riches: love.

We desire that all have wellbeing, but we know that riches corrupt the people, they bring materialism and individualism which destroy families. History proves it thus.

As Christians, we have to save our brothers and sisters from the danger of poverty, but, at the same time, we have to save their soul and their heart from the danger of riches and materialism.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God and the Blessed Virgin to help us have that spirit of simplicity, to convert our Church into a true Church of the small and poor: a Church which knows how to commit herself for the simple and needy, but without sowing hate or division; a Church which is capable of being the soul of the country, instilling in us that heart open to love and solidarity which Our Lord and our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary had.

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