



Holy Father's Lenten Message 2014

He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich (cf. 2 Cor 8:9).

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

St. Paul was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean to us today?

Christ's grace

It shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: "though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor..." Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves his parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. There is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our witness

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it.

Destitution is not the same as poverty: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are three types of destitution: material, moral and spiritual.

Material destitution is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity. In response to this destitution, the Church offers her help -in the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing. No less a concern is Moral destitution, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members-often a young person-is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling or pornography! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as breadwinners and by lack of equal access to education and health care. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin is invariably linked to the Spiritual destitution which we experience when we turn away from God and reject his love. The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we are made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope!

In expressing this hope, I pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me.

May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe.

Abridged version. Full message at www.vatican.va



2014年教宗四旬期文告

「祂本是富有的，为了你们却成了贫困的」（参阅格后8:9）

亲爱的弟兄姐妹们：

这句话摘自圣保禄所写的一封信，为的是要鼓励他们慷慨大方帮助在耶路撒冷有需要的信友。圣徒保禄的这句话对我们今天的基督徒有什么意义呢？在现今时代邀请我们进入贫困，渡「福音的贫穷精神」生活意味着什么呢？

基督的恩典

这句话就是向我们表明天主的作为。祂不把自己掩藏在世俗的权力和财富下，而是在软弱和贫困中作出启示：「祂本是富有的，为了你们却成了贫困的……」。耶稣的「财富」如一名儿童的「财富」：儿童感受到被爱，同时又爱自己的父母；从没一瞬间怀疑过父母的爱和他们慈爱之情。世上只有一种真正的贫困，那就是：不作为天主的子女，不与兄弟姐妹生活在基督内。

我们的见证

我们作为基督徒要效仿「师傅」，我们被召叫要面对我们兄弟姐妹的贫困，去触摸贫困，让他们的贫困成为我们的贫困，并采取实际的步骤减轻他们的贫困。

匮乏和贫困是不相同的：匮乏是没有信德的贫穷、没有支持或帮助、没有希望。世上有三种类型匮乏：物质的匮乏、道德的匮乏和灵修的匮乏。

物质的匮乏通常被称为贫穷；影响那些生活在与人性尊严相对的环境中的人们。针对此种匮乏，教会为——穷人和被抛弃者提供她的协助，因为我们看到基督的面孔。通过爱和帮助穷人，我们也爱了基督、也事奉了基督。因此我们的良心需要归化于正义、平等、简洁和分享。绝没有较少的关注就是道德的匮乏，包括作恶行和罪恶的奴隶。时常由于一位家庭成员——通常是年轻人——被酒精、毒品、赌博或色情束缚，造成家庭多么大的痛苦！多少人因社会不公正的环境而陷入这种匮乏。由于失业，带走他们作为养家糊口人的尊严，因缺乏平等的机会失去接受教育和医疗。因此这种类型的匮乏也会导致破产，也经常链接到灵修的匮乏。那就是当我们远离天主，拒绝祂的爱，我们就体验到这种匮乏。而「福音」就是灵修匮乏的真正解药：天主远远大过我们的罪恶，祂在任何时候都自由地爱着我们，而我们都是因共融和永恒的生命受造的。现在主耶稣基督邀请我们作此怜悯和希望讯息的欢乐使者！

为了表示这种希望，我祈求每一位教友和每个教会团体将从事富有成效的四旬期旅程。我请你们为我祈祷。

愿天主祝福你们，愿圣母保佑你们平安。

节略版本。在 www.vatican.va 可查阅完整的文告。