



The logo prepared to represent the World Day of the Poor shows an open red door with two figures on either side. Both figures have their hands outstretched to reach for the other.

The benefit of the encounter goes both ways and as we stretch our hands to help the poor, in turn “with their trust and readiness to receive help, they show us in a quiet and often joyful way, how essential it is to live simply and to abandon ourselves to God’s providence,” the pope said.

The pope’s message wishes to emphasize the encounter as an opportunity for evangelization, as shown by the star depicted on the upper half of the logo.

World Day of the Poor

At the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis announced a new '*World Day of the Poor*', which is to be celebrated on Sunday, 19 November, 2017. He describes the genesis and the idea behind this day:

“During the “Jubilee for Socially Excluded People”, as the Holy Doors of Mercy were being closed in all the cathedrals and shrines of the world, I had the idea that, as yet another tangible sign of this Extraordinary Holy Year, the entire Church might celebrate, on the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, the World Day of the Poor. This would be the worthiest way to prepare for the celebration of the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, who identified with the little ones and the poor and who will judge us on our works of mercy (cf. Mt 25:31-46). It would be a day to help communities and each of the baptised to reflect on how poverty is at the very heart of the Gospel and that, as long as Lazarus lies at the door of our homes (cf. Lk 16:19-21), there can be no justice or social peace. This Day will also represent a genuine form of new evangelisation (cf. Mt 11:5) which can renew the face of the Church as She perseveres in her perennial activity of pastoral conversion and witness to mercy.” ([Misericordia et misera](#))

Further links:

- Misericordia et misera, Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, 22 November 2016
<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2016/11/21/161121b.html> ;
- “World Day of the Poor, a gesture for all”, Giorgio Bernardelli, La Stampa, 29 November 2016
<http://www.lastampa.it/2016/11/29/vaticaninsider/eng/world-news/world->

[day-of-the-poor-a-gesture-for-all-nHZSwqEtWOfNgYGHTiJGOP/pagina.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter.](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgics/ns_liturgics_20170613_01.html)



Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, speaks at the Vatican June 13 about the theme of the first World Day of the Poor, to be celebrated Nov. 19. (CNS/Robert Duncan)

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is calling on Christians around the world to serve the poor with concrete actions that address their daily needs, writing in a document launching a new World Day of the Poor that service to them is “an imperative that no Christian may disregard.”

In the message for the new special day, which will be celebrated Nov. 19 this year, the pope makes a short but poetic and powerful scriptural argument for why Christians must reach out and care for those experiencing poverty.

Citing the examples given in the Acts of the Apostles and in several of the letters in the New Testament, Francis says service of the poor was “one of the first signs of the entrance of the Christian community upon the world’s stage.”

The pope also reminds Catholics that they believe Christ is found in every human person.

“If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist,” states Francis. “The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.”

Francis also puts forward three new ways Christians can be seen as blessed, in the style of Jesus’ beatitudes.

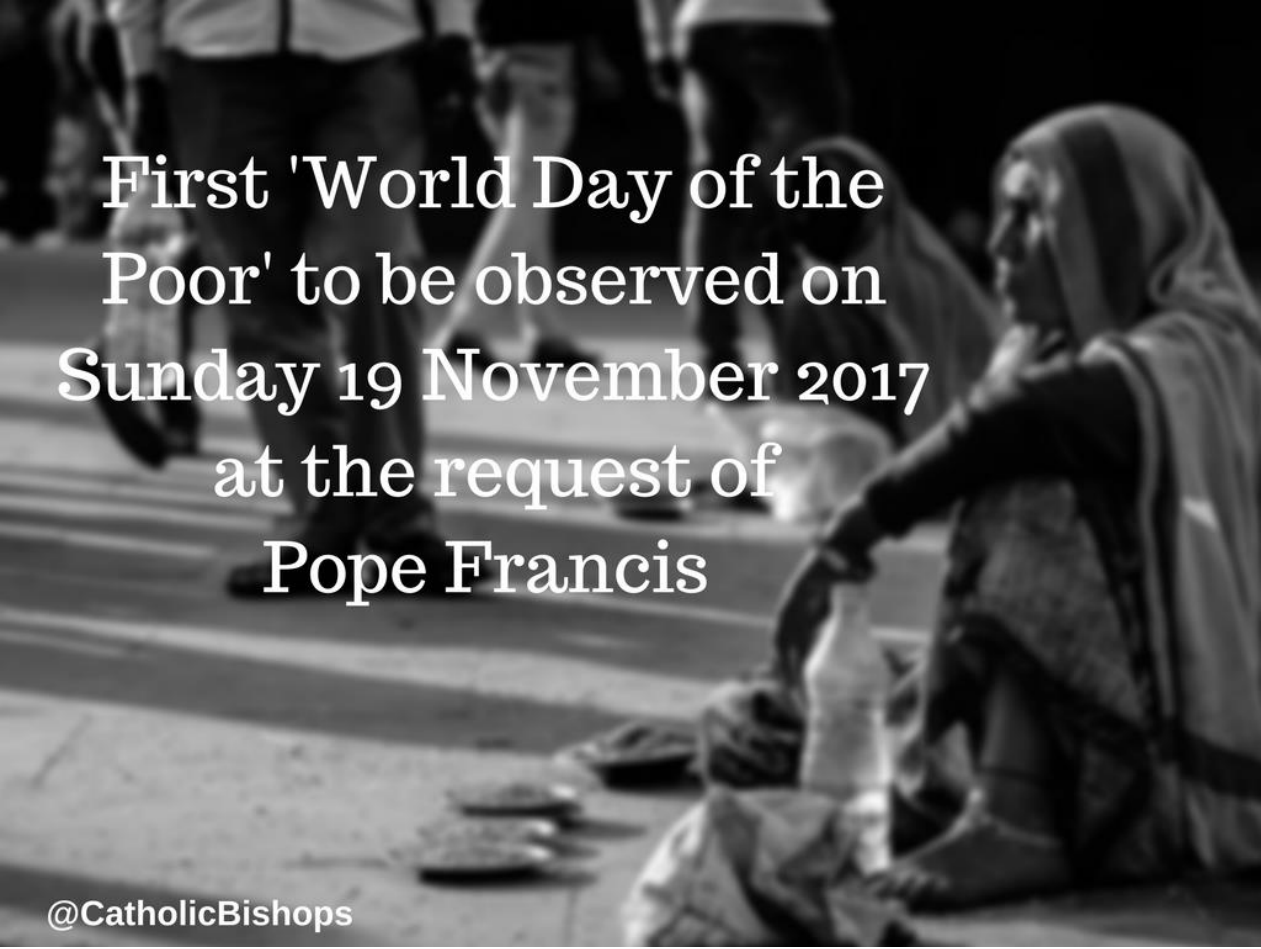
“Blessed ... are the open hands that embrace the poor and help them: they are hands that bring hope,” he says. “Blessed are the hands that reach beyond every barrier of culture, religion and nationality, and pour the balm of consolation over the wounds of humanity.”

“Blessed are the open hands that ask nothing in exchange, with no ‘ifs’ or ‘buts’ or ‘maybes:’ they are hands that call down God’s blessing upon their brothers and sisters,” he continues.

The World Day of the Poor is a new celebration on the Catholic calendar, created by Francis at the end of his 2015-16 Jubilee year for mercy. In the document concluding the year, *Misericordia et Misera*, the pope asked that Catholics celebrate the special day every year on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, which usually falls in November.

Francis’ message for the first World Day of the Poor has been given the title “Let us love, not with words but with deeds”. The title of the message is taken from John’s first letter, in which the apostle tells the Christian community of his time: “Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth.”

“These words of the Apostle John voice an imperative that no Christian may disregard,” the pope opens his message. “The seriousness with which the ‘beloved disciple’ hands down Jesus’ command to our own day is made even clearer by the contrast between the empty words.



First 'World Day of the
Poor' to be observed on
Sunday 19 November 2017
at the request of
Pope Francis

@CatholicBishops

The first World Day of the Poor will be observed in the universal Church on Sunday 19 November 2017 at the request of Pope Francis. In a special message published today, Pope Francis explained that at the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, he wanted to offer the Church a World Day of the Poor, “so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ’s charity for the least and those most in need.”

The World Day of the Poor message is entitled, [“Let us love, not with words but with deeds”](#). In the message Pope Francis invites “the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity.”

Presenting the message to journalists at the Holy See press office today, Tuesday 13 June, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, which organised the Jubilee of Mercy, explained that this World Day of the Poor was announced spontaneously by Pope Francis.

Archbishop Fisichella said that on 13 November 2016 while Cathedrals around the world were closing their Holy Doors, the Pope was looking into the eyes of those present in St Peter's Basilica during Mass to celebrate the Jubilee dedicated to the Socially Marginalized. In the preceding days the Holy Father had heard many emotional stories of people in difficulty. He went on to say that Pope Francis probably decided at the end of his homily to announce this day having heard so many moving accounts of hardship.

The Holy Father's message, draws from the life of Saint Francis and he comments that "precisely because he kept his gaze fixed on Christ, Francis was able to see and serve him in the poor. "

The Pope notes that "if we want to help change history and promote real development, we need to hear the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their marginalization."

The challenge of poverty

Pope Francis also writes about how poverty challenges us "daily, in faces marked by suffering, marginalization, oppression, violence, torture and imprisonment, war, deprivation of freedom and dignity, ignorance and illiteracy, medical emergencies and shortage of work, trafficking and slavery, exile, extreme poverty and forced migration."

There is also a poverty, the Pope highlights, "that stifles the spirit of initiative of so many young people by keeping them from finding work."

Faced with this scenario, Pope Francis stresses, "we cannot remain passive, much less resigned."

Concluding his message the Holy Father, underlines that, "the poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practise in our lives the essence of the Gospel."