Diocèse de
Hearst-Moosonee

INTER PAR

November 15, 2026

10th World day of the Poor

The Lord is a Refuge for the Poor

In his message for the Tenth World Day of the Poor, celebrated on 15 November 2026, Pope Leo XIV takes as his theme the words of Psalm 14:
"The Lord is a refuge for the poor."
He uses this biblical image to invite Christians to examine how seriously the poor occupy a central place in the life and mission of the Church.

The Pope begins by observing that the injustice described in the Psalms remains painfully relevant. When people live as though God does not exist, ignoring his goodness and mercy, relationships can become marked by domination, exclusion and oppression. The poor suffer most from this reality. They are not only deprived materially but are frequently marginalized, humiliated and rendered invisible. Even their cry for justice can be silenced, while the digital world can reinforce prejudice and indifference toward them.

Yet the poor can discover in God a refuge that earthly power cannot provide. Because they often live with only what is essential, they can recognize what truly matters and entrust themselves to God with particular hope. Their faith reminds the whole Church that those experiencing injustice, loneliness, suffering or abandonment can find consolation and renewed purpose in the Lord.

This promise of refuge becomes concrete in Jesus Christ. Through the Incarnation, God enters human poverty rather than observing it from a distance. Jesus draws close to those who are forgotten and marginalized, offering rest, dignity and hope. Consequently, those without a home, employment, education, food or good health should be able to encounter Christ through Christians and through the Church. Christian concern for the poor must therefore include not only material assistance, but friendship, welcome and recognition of each person's dignity.



Pope Leo XIV then makes one of the strongest statements of his message: "The Church, by its very nature, is called to be poor and a refuge for the poor." He challenges Christians to undertake a serious examination of conscience. Do we actually go where the poor live? Do we listen to them and share their hopes? Do we know their names? Does our charity encourage their desire for justice and liberation?

Importantly, the poor should not simply be divided from those who help them. They themselves possess gifts and can become a refuge for others. In the Christian community, everyone has something to give and something to receive.

The Pope illustrates this attitude through Saint Francis of Assisi. During a pilgrimage to Rome, Francis exchanged his clothes with a beggar and spent the day among the poor. His example shows that Christians must do more than speak about poverty. They must listen to the poor and be willing to put themselves in their shoes.

Ultimately, the message is a call to conversion of heart. Pope Leo XIV dreams of Christian communities where those society overlooks can feel genuinely at home. The Church becomes a true refuge when she walks with the poor in humility and fraternity, recognizing them not merely as recipients of charity but as brothers and sisters whose presence enriches the entire community.

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https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/fr/messages/poor/documents/20260613-messaggio-giornata-poveri.html

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