

“THIS POOR MAN CRIED AND THE LORD HEARD HIM”



LET'S PRAY WITH FRATELLO

2nd WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

18th NOVEMBER 2018

NOVEMBER 12TH TO 16TH

Prepare yourself to the 2nd World Day of the Poor with a daily quote and meditation.



WE ARE
Fratello

HOW DOES THIS RETREAT WORK?

From November 12th until November 16th you will daily receive

- ▶ a **reflection** from Father Nicolas Buttet, Eucharistein Fraternity's founder
- ▶ a **prayer**
- ▶ an **inspiring quote** to uplift your reflection

REFLECTION WITH POPE FRANCIS

“The poor evangelize us and help us each day to discover the beauty of the Gospel. Let us not squander this grace-filled opportunity. On this day, may all of us feel that we are in debt to the poor, because, in hands outstretched to one another, a salvific encounter can take place to strengthen our faith, inspire our charity and enable our hope to advance securely on our path towards the Lord who is to come.”



Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the second World Day of the Poor, 13 June 2018



“GOD IS MY FATHER”

✠ *Au nom du père, du fils et du Saint Esprit, amen*

PRAYER

*Lord, sometimes I feel so small, so dirty, so unworthy of being loved and often unable to love. Today, thanks to your grace, I wish to be your hands, your eyes, your smile for those who are hungry and freezing. **Make me the instrument of your goodness.***

“Nobody is so poor he has nothing to give and nobody is so rich he has nothing to receive.”

Mgr Jean Rodhain

REFLECTION

A poor child was standing in front of the display window wearing dirty, ripped clothes on his dirty and scruffy body. He admired beautiful costumes displayed behind the window with envy. A woman approached him and said: “Would you like to have any clothes from this store?” The child got scared at first: “How could such a well-dressed lady approach me, so dirty?” he wondered “Will she hurt me, is it a trap?” The lady calmed him down and encouraged him to enter the store. She gave him the possibility to choose new trousers, T-shirts and a jacket. At this moment the boy, radiant and full of gratitude, exclaimed looking straight into her eyes: “Madam, you are the true God!” And the lady answered with a large smile: “no, I am not the true God, but I know him well, the true God is my Father”. The boy looked at her and said: “Ah, it seemed to me that there is a link between you and him!” (and between me and him as well, do we belong to the same family?)

This story illustrates the words of Pope Francis delivered during the World Day of the Poor: “God’s answer to the poor is always a saving act that heals wounds of body and soul, restores justice and helps to live life anew in dignity. God’s answer is also a summons to those who believe in him to do likewise, within the limits of what is humanly possible”.

Jesus invites us to reflect with our attitudes and actions the goodness of the Father for his children, to become his instruments used for sharing fraternal communion. “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

Nicolas Buttet

founder of the Eucharistein Fraternity



“A CRY THAT IS SILENT AND TEARS THAT SPEAK”

✠ *In the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit, Amen*

PRAYER

*Lord, where is this poor man crying? I cannot hear anything. Only the noises of my complaint and my dissatisfaction pollute my spirit. Forgive me Lord when I'm deaf to the call of the poorer than me. Thanks to your grace, I wish to learn to hear, to observe and to act. Lord, **today**, I want to wipe away the tears of the one you will send me to. **Make me the instrument of your consolation.***

“You don't need to change to believe in my love, for it will be your belief in my love that will change you”

Mother Teresa

REFLECTION

There is a cry which tears the night. There are also tears which flood days.

These are tears which wet a dirty sidewalk of an anonymous city or those which flow on the clean floor of a human soulless home.

These are tears of betrayed husbands, betrayed wives; These are tears of mothers who plant red flowers on the white grave of a child left too early.

The tears of those who have suffered violence and exclusion, rejection and abandonment.

The tears flowing from the wounds incessantly opened by words of contempt, unanswered questions, gestures of tenderness waited in vain.

These tears tell the truth.

They speak when prayers are silent. They become prayers themselves.

They are impetuous or silent tears that God hears ... and listens to.

Blessed are those who such tears.

Blessed are also those who hear the cry of tears shed on our earth.

The tears of a heart waiting for attentive listening;

tears of a beggar seeking warm help;

tears of a lonely person lacking a loving look...

tears of a child in search of a support giving a sense of security.

Pope Francis asks us: “We can ask ourselves how their plea, which rises to the presence of God, can fail to reach our own ears, or leave us cold and indifferent. On this World Day of the Poor, we are called to make a serious examination of conscience, to see if we are truly capable of hearing the cry of the poor”.

Nicolas Buttet

founder of the Eucharistein Fraternity



“THE WINDOW OR THE MIRROR”

✠ *In the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit, Amen*

REFLECTION

A Jewish story tells about a man, Abraham, who was very poor but extremely generous. He shared what he had and opened his heart to the distress of the needy he met on his way. Suddenly, the fate has changed and Abraham started making a lot of money. As his wealth accumulated, his heart has become closed.

One day, a rabbi visited him. He looked around Abraham's house, admired its beauty, and suddenly stopped in front of the big mirror at the entrance and asked:

- Abraham, who do you see in this mirror?
- I see myself, replied Abraham, surprised by the question.
- Tell me, Abraham, do you know what a mirror is made of?
- It's made of glass - Abraham replied.
- And the window? - asked the rabbi looking out at the street.
- Also glass!
- I do not understand anything - said the rabbi, with a bit of naivety. The window is made of glass and the mirror is also made of glass. But why through the glass of the window you see the whole world, while in the mirror you see only yourself?
- It's very simple - answered Abraham. The glass of the window is pure and clear, that is why it is transparent. But the glass of the mirror is silver on the other side. This is the reason why we see ourselves in it.

Wonderful lesson! Our goods can be the place where we meet each other or something which brings us apart. Window or mirror?

Pope Francis encourages us to replace our mirrors by windows and get the fresh air of the Spirit. To open our hearts to the needs of our brothers and sisters. Pope Francis said: "We are so much trapped by our culture that invites us to look at ourselves in a mirror and to pamper ourselves, that we cannot think that a simple altruistic action is enough to fully satisfy ourselves."

Nicolas Buttet

founder of the Eucharistein Fraternity

PRAYER

Lord, on this day, I do not want to look at myself, but to look at you.

Only you can transform my heart. I contemplate you and I learn to love.

*Teach me **today**, to pray, to worship, to adore or to read your Word more intensively.*

Make me your worshiper in Spirit and Truth.

"Give me a man of prayer and he will be able of anything "

Saint Vincent de Paul



“HE IS MY BROTHER, LORD!”

✠ *In the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit, Amen*

PRAYER

*Lord, I am your child.
Help me go to my
neighbours, who are
my brother and let
me see your presence
in them. Help me
reconcile today with
the one who hurt me.*

***Make me the
instrument of
your forgiveness.***

“Forgiveness is a
decision of the heart
to go against the
natural instinct
to pay back evil
with evil”

St. John Paul II

REFLECTION

On a stony path I met a girl carrying a small child on her back. “Girl”, I said, “you bear a heavy burden!” She looked at me surprised and sad, and replied “It is not a burden, sir, it is my brother!”

Pope Francis reminds us that “in a thick forest of rules and prescriptions, Jesus made a breach which allows us to distinguish two faces: that the one of the Father and the one of the brother”. When we stay focused on these two faces, our life can flourish and become a fruitful life while poverty, pain and death wreak havoc.

A Jewish philosopher, Emmanuel Lévinas, reminds us that “the value of holiness [...] consists in the certainty that the first place must be left for the neighbour, starting from “after you, sir” in front of the open door, until the disposition - hardly possible, but holiness requires it - to die for the neighbour”.

We are all called to live an “exodus”, a permanent exodus that leads us first from “the I closed on oneself to the I freed by the self-giving” (Benedict XVI). The exodus that leads us further towards the wounds of our brothers and sisters in need (Francis). The face of the neighbour is no longer anonymous. It is the face of a brother, a sister who may be unknown, but who has the same dignity as me and lives under the loving gaze of the same Father.

Nicolas Buttet

founder of the Eucharistein Fraternity



PRAYER

*Lord, only you can save.
You who gave your life
for me, teach me today
to commit myself
to others, wherever
you send me.*

***Make me the instrument
of your love.***

“What do you have
that you did not
receive?”

St. Paul

“THIS POOR MAN
CALLED, AND THE LORD
HEARD HIM; HE SAVED
HIM OUT OF ALL HIS
TROUBLES”

✠ *In the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit, Amen*

REFLECTION

A singer, Lou Reed, suffered a lot. At the age of 17, he underwent electroshock therapy, which was suggested by a psychiatrist to his parents. He evoked this terrible and devastating electroshock experience in his song Kill Your Sons: “Don’t you know, they’re gonna kill your sons?”

Then, Lou Reed composed a song entitled: Jesus. It is the cry of his heart:

“Jesus, help me find my proper place
Help me in my weakness
Cause I’m falling out of grace”

These words of the singer link with the words of the psalmist in Psalm 34. Those are the words of women and men who struggle and suffer:

⁰⁵ I sought the Lord, and he answered me, delivered me from all my fears.

⁰⁶ Those who look to Him are[c] radiant with joy; their faces will never be ashamed.

⁰⁷ This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him from all his troubles.

⁰⁹ Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Pope Francis says that “the bondage of poverty is shattered by the power of God’s intervention. Lord, when You showed Your favor, You made me stand like a strong mountain” (Ps 30:8). Therefore, Pope Francis exhorts us: “Let us ask for the grace not to close our eyes to God who sees us and to our neighbour who asks something of us”.

Nicolas Buttet

founder of the Eucharistein Fraternity

ANTHEM FRATELLO

Here we come before you, Mother Church,
We, your children, the poor that you love.
All are welcome at your Holy Door
And you give us your only wealth:
Jesus in our midst!

Toi qui nous invites à franchir la Porte
du pardon et du Salut,
aide-nous à croire à la miséricorde,
à revenir à Jésus !

Haznos recordar que Jesús está
esperando con amor
a que en nuestras almas Él pueda habitar:
todo lo transformará.



WE ARE
Fratello