

Dear friends in Christ,

Today, as I write this, Pope Leo issued his first Apostolic exhortation, **DILEXI TE** ("I have loved you" Rev 3:9) a message to all Christians on love of the poor. In it he powerfully reminds us of Christ's care for the poor and of our duty to come to their aid. Though it is long, it gives us much to reflect upon. This week I would like to provide a few excerpts from the initial pages for our reflection:

1. "I HAVE LOVED YOU" (Rev 3:9). The Lord speaks these words to a Christian community that, unlike some others, had no influence or resources, and was treated instead with violence and contempt: "You have but little power... I will make them come and bow down before your feet" (Rev 3:8-9). This text reminds us of the words of the canticle of Mary: "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Lk 1:52-53)....

2. This declaration of love, taken from the Book of Revelation, reflects the inexhaustible mystery that Pope Francis reflected upon in the Encyclical *Dilexit Nos* on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ. There we saw how Jesus identified himself "with the lowest ranks of society" and how, with his love poured out to the end, he confirms the dignity of every human being, especially when "they are weak, scorned, or suffering." [1] As we contemplate Christ's love, "we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love." [2]...

4. Jesus' disciples criticized the woman who poured costly perfumed oil on his head. They said: "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." However, the Lord said to them in response: "You always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me" (Mt 26:8-9,11). That woman saw in Jesus the lowly and suffering Messiah on whom she could pour out all her love. What comfort that anointing must have brought to the very head that within a few days would be pierced by thorns! It was a small gesture, of course, but those who suffer know how great even a small gesture of affection can be, and how much relief it can bring. Jesus understood this and told the disciples that the memory of her gesture would endure: "Wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her" (Mt 26:13). The simplicity of that woman's gesture speaks volumes. No sign of affection, even the smallest, will ever be forgotten, especially if it is shown to those who are suffering, lonely or in need, as was the Lord at that time.

5. Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor. The same Jesus who tells us, "The poor you will always have with you" (Mt 26:11), also promises the disciples: "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20). We likewise think of his saying: "Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). This is not a matter of mere human kindness but a revelation: contact with those who are lowly and powerless is a fundamental way of encountering the Lord of history.

In the poor, he continues to speak to us...

Jesus, the poor Messiah

18. The Old Testament history of God's preferential love for the poor and his readiness to hear their cry — to which I have briefly alluded — comes to fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. [14] By his Incarnation, he "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness" (Phil 2:7), and in that form he brought us salvation. His was a radical poverty, grounded in his mission to reveal fully God's love for us (cf. Jn 1:18; 1 Jn 4:9). As Saint Paul puts it in his customarily brief but striking manner: "You know well the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9)...

Mercy towards the poor in the Bible

24. The Apostle John writes: "Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen" (1 Jn 4:20). Similarly, in his reply to the scribe's question, Jesus quotes the two ancient commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Deut 6:5), and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Lev 19:18), uniting them in a single commandment. The Evangelist Mark reports Jesus' response in these terms: "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (12:29-31).

25. The passage from the Book of Leviticus teaches love for one's neighbor, while other texts call for respect — if not also love — even for one's enemy: "When you come upon your enemy's ox or donkey going astray, you shall bring it back. When you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden and you would hold back from setting it free, you must help to set it free" (Ex 23:4-5). Here the intrinsic value of respect for others is expressly stated: anyone in need, even an enemy, always deserves our assistance.

26. Jesus' teaching on the primacy of love for God is clearly complemented by his insistence that one cannot love God without extending one's love to the poor. Love for our neighbor is tangible proof of the authenticity of our love for God, as the Apostle John attests: "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us... God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them" (1 Jn 4:12,16)....
POPE LEO

There is much more in the exhortation, but may we always recognize the presence of Christ in those in need and serve them in his Name.

Blessings on your week!
Fr Johnson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, October 13

9:00 AM Daily Mass
10:00 AM Women of Faith
7:00 PM Baptismal Preparation Class

Tuesday, October 14

No Daily Mass
5:30 PM Faith Formation K-6

Wednesday, October 15

8:30 AM Confessions
9:00 AM Daily Mass
7:00 PM House of Prayer
7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal
(for 11AM Masses)

Thursday, October 16

9:00 AM Daily Mass
12:15 PM Steps to Freedom
1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
(for 9AM Masses)
6:30 PM Knights of Columbus-
Fourth Degree Meeting
7:00 PM OCIA
7:00 PM St Vincent de Paul Meeting

Friday, October 17

9:00 AM Daily Mass
9:30 AM Benediction then Adoration until 9PM
10:00 AM Guardians & Angels

Saturday, October 18

3:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass
Wine & Cheese after Mass

Sunday, October 19

9:00 AM Sunday Mass
11:00 AM Sunday Mass
Coffee & Donuts after both Masses
6:30 PM Teen Group

PARISH NEWS

RESCHEDULED:

Church, Narthex, and Halls Closed
New time: October 13, 2025 Monday 12-5 PM

On Monday afternoon, October 13, the Church, Narthex, Parish Hall and Lovett Hall will be closed from 12PM to 5PM. These areas will be inaccessible during this timeframe. **Daily Mass at 9AM is unaffected and will still be celebrated.**

**TEMPORARILY
CLOSED**

Liturgical Ministers Refresher Courses

Are you presently serving at Mass as an Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, Lector or Usher? We are having a gathering for each of those involved in these ministries in the coming weeks. It will be a great opportunity to get to know each other as well as look at our current practices. Please mark your calendars and let Betty know that you will be attending. Thank you for your dedication and service to our parish community.

Saturdays 10:30AM—12:00PM

Altar Servers: Oct. 25, 2025

Lectors: Nov. 1, 2025

Eucharistic Ministers: Nov. 22, 2025

Ushers: Dec. 15, 2025

OCTOBER 17TH

**SAINT
IGNATIUS**
of Antioch



ST. LUKE

FEAST DAY
OCTOBER 18



**PARTNERS
IN THE GOSPEL**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

St Jude | Holy Innocents
Mission Church of St. Anthony