

Ongoing Formation on Dilexi Te
Session 4
August 23, 2026

* Reading: Dilexi Te, Chapter 3, paragraphs 59-81

Note that Chapter 3 is twice as long as the other chapters; we read the first half for last session and are finishing it this session.

Supplementary information: In paragraph 78, Pope Leo talks about St. Dulce of the Poor, a Brazilian sister canonized by Pope Francis. It turns out that she was a Franciscan sister! You can learn a bit more about her life on Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dulce_de_Souza_Lopes_Pontes

* Discussion questions

1. Select one passage that really struck you and come prepared to share this passage and the reason that it affected you.
2. St. Francis, according to Pope Leo, lived a poverty that was "relational" (see paragraph 64). What does this mean for us as Seculars who are called to follow in the footsteps of Francis?
3. In our time and place, who are the slaves, the prisoners, the migrants? How are we called, as individuals and as a community, to minister to them?
4. What are some examples of "popular movements", run by laity, not even necessarily Catholic, that advance the needs of the poor? How can we support their work?
5. Did anything you read challenge how you think of yourself as a Franciscan? Did anything in our way of life help you to understand what the Pope wrote?