



World Week of the Poor November 9-15th, 2026

On the occasion of the 800th anniversary
of the Transitus of St. Francis

Our BSSF Movement to seek encounter.....

- ▶ Dilexit Nos
- ▶ Dilexi te
- ▶ Decree on year of St. Francis:

This Year of St. Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities, to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ, not to frustrate the purposes of the Holy Year that has just ended: may the hope that has seen us as pilgrims now be transformed into zeal and fervour of active charity.

Following in the footsteps of Francis - who, having arrived in Rome as a pilgrim to the tomb of the Apostle Peter, gave his clothes to the most needy, spending the entire day among the poor with joyful spirit - we wish to bear witness that it is possible, even today, to give voice to the reality of the poor, to listen to them rather than simply speak about them, and to carry out together a prophetic gesture that tells the Church and society that the preferential option for the poor is not an optional choice, but belongs to the very essence of our Franciscan charism and of being Christians.

Six key points

Can be used as inspiration if we decide to organize week of the poor

1. Moving towards poverty

- ▶ The goal is to address both visible and hidden forms of poverty by raising awareness among public opinion and institutions.

This is not about organizing events, but about physically going out to the places where poverty dwells,

day and night, in systematic and continuous manner throughout the entire week.

2. Listening: let the poor speak

- ▶ The key attitude is to listen: not to “speak about the poor”,

but to put the poor
themselves first, allowing
them to tell their own stories

their lives, their dreams, and their struggles. This listening will become a valuable legacy to be handed over, at the end of the mission, to the government of one's own country and to the Church as the fruit of the experience lived.

3. The educational dimension

- ▶ During the week, it would be important to offer educational sessions for participants. For example, topics such as the following could be explored

more deeply: **Francis and the leper as a**

model for encountering the poor; the

intelligence of the heart and the poor heart; the dialogue between Franciscan presence and the city; an analysis of the causes of poverty; and, finally, how to transform indignation into hope in order to create a prophetic sign.

Roundtable discussions with the public opinion and institutions, study sessions, and meetings in schools can also be planned, so as to raise awareness among the younger generations regarding the issue of poverty.

4. Prayer as the heart of the mission

- ▶ The spiritual dimension is fundamental. **A fixed prayer space could be set up,** where the missionary group would gather daily for prayer; and perhaps also a mobile prayer presence in different locations, to combine a tangible focus on people with prayer, in accordance with the Gospel in marginalized areas.

5. Collaboration with other entities: a mission approach

- ▶ We would like to highlight one aspect of this proposal in particular: its openness to collaboration. **The missionary group should be formed of religious and lay Franciscans, but also of every man and woman of good will.** The approach we suggest is not to operate alone as Franciscan Family: the Week would aim to enhance and promote collaboration with other ecclesial (Catholic and non-Catholic) and civil entities present in the area. This openness to collaboration would be a very Franciscan sign: maybe only we can dare to do so much!

6. The prophetic sign at the end of the mission

The mission concludes on November 15, World Day of the Poor. It would be great to find a prophetic public gesture - different for each context and arising from the listening experienced during the week - to give back to the Church and society what has been gained from the encounter with the poor.

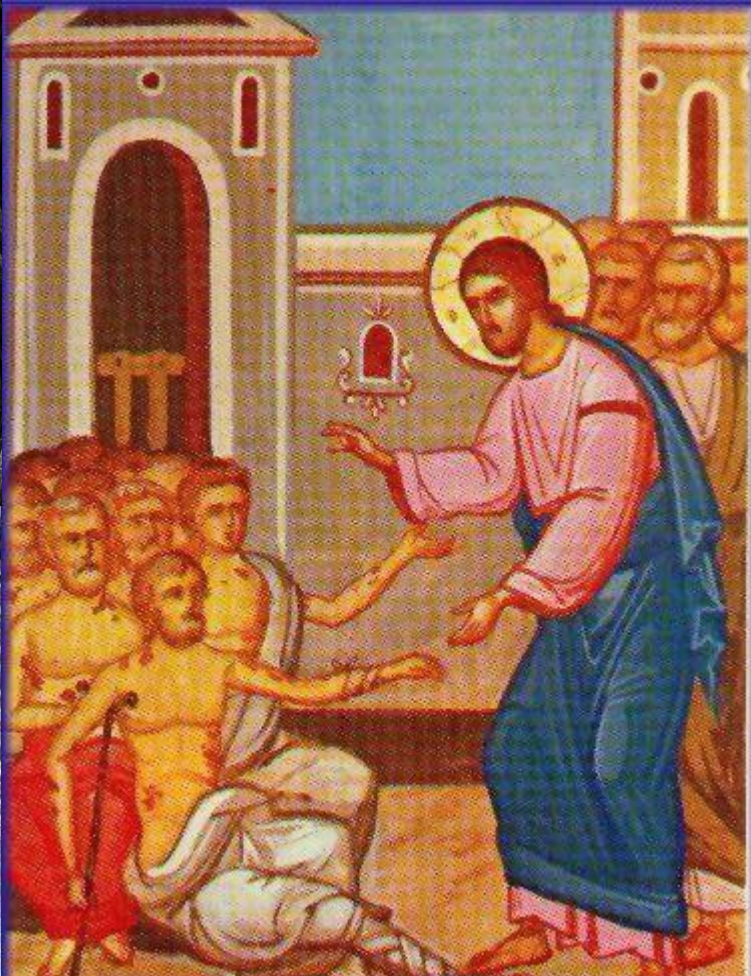
We are invited

as the Franciscan Family, in celebrating a “Week of the Poor” between November 9 and 15, 2026: an act of fidelity to the Gospel, to the charism of Francis, to Pope Francis’ call to stand by those whom the Lord himself has pointed out to us as his beloved.

Pope Leo reminds us: “

The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of

The Lord Hears the cry of the poor Do we?



What is OURS to Do?

