

Novena for World Day of the Poor

DAY 7 THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER

The feast of St Martin
of Tours, Bishop

**For those who
experience
destitution**



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Antiphon

Give justice to the weak and the orphan,
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 82

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Scripture reading

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham."

Luke 16: 19-22

Silent reflection on the word of God: ask the Holy Spirit to let the words touch your heart and speak to you in the here and now of your life in your community.

St Martin of Tours served in the Roman cavalry as a young man, possibly in the Emperor's personal bodyguard. A prestigious career lay ahead of him, but he had already heard the call of Christ and was undergoing instruction in the faith. The story is told that one day in winter while on duty he encountered a beggar by the roadside, dressed only in rags. Martin took his sword and divided his military cloak in two, giving half to the beggar. That night he had a dream in which Christ appeared to him and said, "Today a mere catechumen has clothed me."

We pray for those who are destitute, who do not even have enough for life's necessities: food, clothes, shelter, warmth, safety. May we commit ourselves to a just and generous sharing of resources so that all may enjoy the fruits of creation.

**Loving Father
your risen Son sent us out
into the world as ambassadors
for your kingdom of justice, love and peace;
inspire us with your Spirit
of compassion, justice advocacy
and proclamation, to declare good news
to the poor, liberty to captives,
to let the oppressed go free.
We make this our prayer
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

"We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone any more. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship."