



# First Friday Reflection

Nov 2023

COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
&  
PARTICIPATORY  
ACTION



## TWELVE FIRST FRIDAY STEPS TOWARDS THE LAUDATO SI GOALS



### AWARENESS

The World Day of the Poor is a Roman Catholic observance, celebrated on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need.

### PRAYER

Triune God,  
help us as Chevalier Family  
and all groups that work  
for the common good,  
to develop a spirituality of  
global solidarity which flows  
from the mystery of who  
You are, an interconnected  
community of love.

Amen.

### ACTION

Choose how you want to participate in this observance to show your concern for the poor.

## NOVEMBER

Image from <https://pixabay.com/photos/children-feet-shoes-poverty-africa-5980533/>

### Australian Reflection

"The poor" - It's a pithy term we use without thinking. It evokes specific images - inability to pay for living expenses, malnutrition, homelessness, limited access to essential services/education, social discrimination/exclusion, lack of sanitation/clean drinking water... the list goes on (UN).

Poverty is horrific, whatever the scale it is experienced, because it undermines the most fundamental gift and right people have: human dignity. It undermines that we are all "created in God's image" (Gen 1:27) to share equitably the gift of God's Creation and "love one another as God Has loved us" (John 13:34). Perhaps the expression 'people experiencing poverty' better lends itself towards recognising inherent human dignity whilst acknowledging the reality of poverty. It states that "poor" does not define the person but is something happening to them - an unfortunate circumstance that must be changed and eliminated.

The political correctness of using "the poor" (Oxfam) is thought-provoking. Is this a moment where a 'paradigm shift' in Catholic theology (Catholic News Agency) towards lived experience and evolved understanding can start? This month, we invite you to reflect on your image of "the poor" and what response "being on Earth the heart of God" calls you to.