

Catholic

UPDATE

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ONE LIGUORI DRIVE
LIGUORI, MO
63057-9999

800-325-9521
LIGUORI.ORG

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Understanding the Poor

INSIGHT AND ACTION

We are bombarded daily with news of the disadvantaged. The extent of the need can feel overwhelming. We may wonder how we could possibly have any helpful impact. Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something. The question is, what is that something?

Before we address that question, let's answer this one first: Who are the poor? By exploring this through the lens of who the poor were in New Testament times, we'll address several key points: Did *poor* refer to economic or social status, or both? What part of the population was considered poor? How did people become poor? We can gain clarity by understanding the communal plight of biblical times. Pope Francis shares in the sentiment: "The centuries pass, but the condition of rich and poor remains constant, as if history has taught us nothing."



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