



DIOCESE OF LONDON

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7 November 2022

To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 13 November 2022, marks the Sixth World Day of the Poor. In his message, *For your sakes Christ became poor*, Pope Francis calls us to choose to live in solidarity with the poor and to “be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves” (James 1:22).

Over the past year, our diocese participated in “listening sessions” along with Catholics around the world in preparation for the Synod of Bishops that will occur in 2023. This *walking together* has enabled us to engage in dialogue, prayer, listening to each other and discerning how the Holy Spirit is guiding the Church. In his message for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis relates the synodal process to our solidarity with those who are poor. He calls us to walk together with the poor and to be committed to social justice. Our love of the poor reflects God’s love and Christ’s example.

With partners in the Global South, Development and Peace (D&P) continues to walk this path of justice. Its annual fall action campaign mobilizes Canadian Catholics to reflect on the root causes of poverty and make a difference through action. This year’s campaign, [People and Planet First](#), invites us to stand in solidarity with those in the Global South who are fighting for environmental and human rights. To learn more about the good work of D&P, visit [devp.org](#) and consider becoming a member.

Through their Society of St. Vincent de Paul conference, our parishes continue to walk with those in the local community who experience poverty. They are responding to Jesus’ call to his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46). I thank them for their ministry, and I thank you for your generous contributions which assist them in their work.

The care for the poor belongs to all of Jesus’ disciples: “None of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and social justice” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 201). Echoing Pope Francis’ words, I invite all the faithful to make a personal and communal examination of conscience, to continue to respond to the cry of the poor, to work with those who live in poverty and to take steps to address injustices. Let us “bear one another’s burdens in such a way that no one is left behind or excluded”.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB
Bishop of London