

Prayer for Those in Poverty

O Christ, you responded to those in poverty:
You acknowledged them and saw their need.
Open our eyes so we can see and respond
To your children who struggle each day to survive,
To secure food, shelter, and to find hope

Help us see the fifteen million hungry children in the U.S.,
Help us see beyond our borders to the 800 millions more
Who, in poverty around the world, suffer from chronic
malnourishment.

Help us to see the conditions in which so many people live,
Without proper shelter, clean water, and proper sanitation.
May we be present to their suffering as you were present
To the suffering of “the least of these,” those on the margins,
Those overlooked, those who were too often invisible.

O Christ, help us respond to those in poverty:
Help us to acknowledge them and see their need.
Help us recognize the roots of poverty in
The unjust economic systems and structures
That Pope Francis is calling to our attention.

Grant us the wisdom to see new ways of ordering society
And building more human and humane communities
Where no one is invisible, no one lost, no child crying in hunger,
Where we all participate in the healing mission of compassion,
Where we all share in the grace of justice.

~ Jane Deren

