



# DILEXI TE

(I HAVE LOVED YOU, REV 3:9)

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**A**postolic exhortation signed on 4th of October 2025, on the memorial day of St. Francis of Assisi- who was called Alter Christus – (who practiced the gospel of life and became poor, and he encountered Christ in the leper), promulgated on the 9th of October 2025.

## **Addressed to: All Christians**

Pope Leo XIV's First Apostolic Exhortation – Dilexi Te is addressed to all Christians on the love for the poor. It is not addressed to the people of goodwill. He makes it very clear that the Church's or Christians' service to the poor is not like the NGO or Humanitarian service, but we serve Christ in serving the poor. So we can understand the seriousness and the importance of this Apostolic Exhortation.

## **Methodology used:**

Indicating an issue and explaining it in a following chapter. It means the legislator uses a thought processes that continually proceeds chronologically and logically.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION:**

This Apostolic exhortation has 5 chapters.

**Introduction:** paragraph 1-3.

**Chapter one:** A few essential words (paragraphs 4-15).

**Chapter two:** God chooses the poor (paragraphs) 16-35.

**Chapter three:** A church for the poor (paragraph 36-81)

**Chapter four:** A history that continues (paragraph 82-102)

**Chapter five:** A constant challenge (paragraph 103-121)

## Why the title **Dilexi Te**- I have loved you (Rev 3:9).

The lord speaks these words to a Christian community, who had no influence or resources and were treated with violence and contempt. Lord says, You have little power...I will make them come and bow down before your feet (Rev 3:8-9). Like the canticle of Mary- Magnificat "He has cast down the mighty and raises the lowly...."

### **Purpose:**

To catechize the faithful that serving the poor is an essential path to Holiness. Faith and Action are important in the life of a disciple.

### **A few essential words**

Pope wants to answer to the question, who the poor are ? Without beating round the bush, he uses a few essential lines from the Gospel of Mt:26:8-9, 11: which describe the woman's action of pouring costly perfume on Jesus' head (poor and suffering Jesus before his passion). The Apostle's remark on that material, "Why this waste?", suggests that the money could be given to the poor. Jesus' reply is brief: "the poor are always with you, but you will not always have me." This teaches us that the small sign of affection— even the smallest act be shown to those who are suffering, lonely, or in need will give relief, as was Jesus at that time. The phrase "The poor you will always have with you" echoes Mt 28:20, where Jesus says, "I am with you always." Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me (Mt 25:40). The key is to see Jesus in the poor. Poor are the representative of Christ.



### **Hear the Cry of the Poor:**



God heard the cry of his poor people in Egypt and came to deliver them. He called Moses to go. We are called to serve the poor, " if we are unresponsive to that cry, the poor might well cry out to the Lord against us, and we will incur guilt". He sent his only son Jesus, Emmanuel- God among us: Incarnation and birth is in a simple manger, two turtle dove offering, social status as Son of Joseph the carpenter of Nazareth, his mission to the poor, dying on the cross. All this speaks of God, a poor Messiah of the poor and for the poor.

### **Ignorance of Poor is the ignorance of Christ.**

A warning not to fall into the secular ideologies that happiness lies in the comfort of wealth, so the people are self-centered in accumulating wealth and forget the poor. Do not make fun of charity.



## Story of Jesus Christ

Therefore, Pope wants us to re-read the Gospel. Reference sources used to catechize are plenty: Scriptures, Church Fathers, different founders of the orders and their Spiritualities from the first century till the present day, Church teachings, and the teaching of the Popes. All these sources and references point us that God loved the poor and the Church of Christ must take the side of the poor and make them a part of the Kingdom of God- all sharing at the one table –no alienation, no gap between the poor and rich (rich man and Lazarus), which is a social sin. Commandment of love: Love God, Neighbor and oneself. If you can not love the brother and sister you can see, how can you serve God whom you do not see.

## A Constant Challenge

In the words of the Aparecida conference Document, “we are asked to devote time to the poor, to give them loving attention, to listen to them with interest, to stand by them in difficult moments, choosing to spend hours, weeks or years of our lives with them, and striving to transform their situations, starting from them. We cannot forget that this is what Jesus himself proposed in his actions and by his words. By quoting Fratelli Tutti Pope reflects on the parable of the good Samaritan. Only a good Samaritan stops and cares for the poor and wounded.

Almsgiving at least offers us a chance to halt before the poor, to look into their eyes, to touch them and to share something of ourselves with them. In the words of the Book of Proverbs: “Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor” (22:9).

Saint John Chrysostom is known for saying: “Almsgiving is the wing of prayer. If you do not provide your prayer with wings, it will hardly fly.”

“Or Pope Gregory the great’s words reminds us: “Every minute we can find a Lazarus if we seek him, and every day, even without seeking, we find one at our door. Now beggars besiege us, imploring alms; later they will be our advocates... Therefore, do not waste the opportunity of doing works of mercy (Mt 25 last Judgment); do not store unused the good things you possess.” Gregory courageously denounced contemporary forms of prejudice against the poor, including the belief that they were responsible for their plight: “Whenever you see the poor doing something reprehensible, do not despise or discredit them, for the fire of poverty is perhaps purifying their sinful actions, however slight they be.”

A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today.

## Conclusion

1. Charity has the power to change reality.
2. Both Christian life and preaching must bring change in the society.
3. Denounce the dictatorship of an economy that kills.
4. New tyranny- that imposes its own laws and rules on others.
5. Avoid selfishness and indifference- inequality is the root of social ills- it ignores the poor.

It is our Christian duty, like our Master, to be with the poor and uplift them.

