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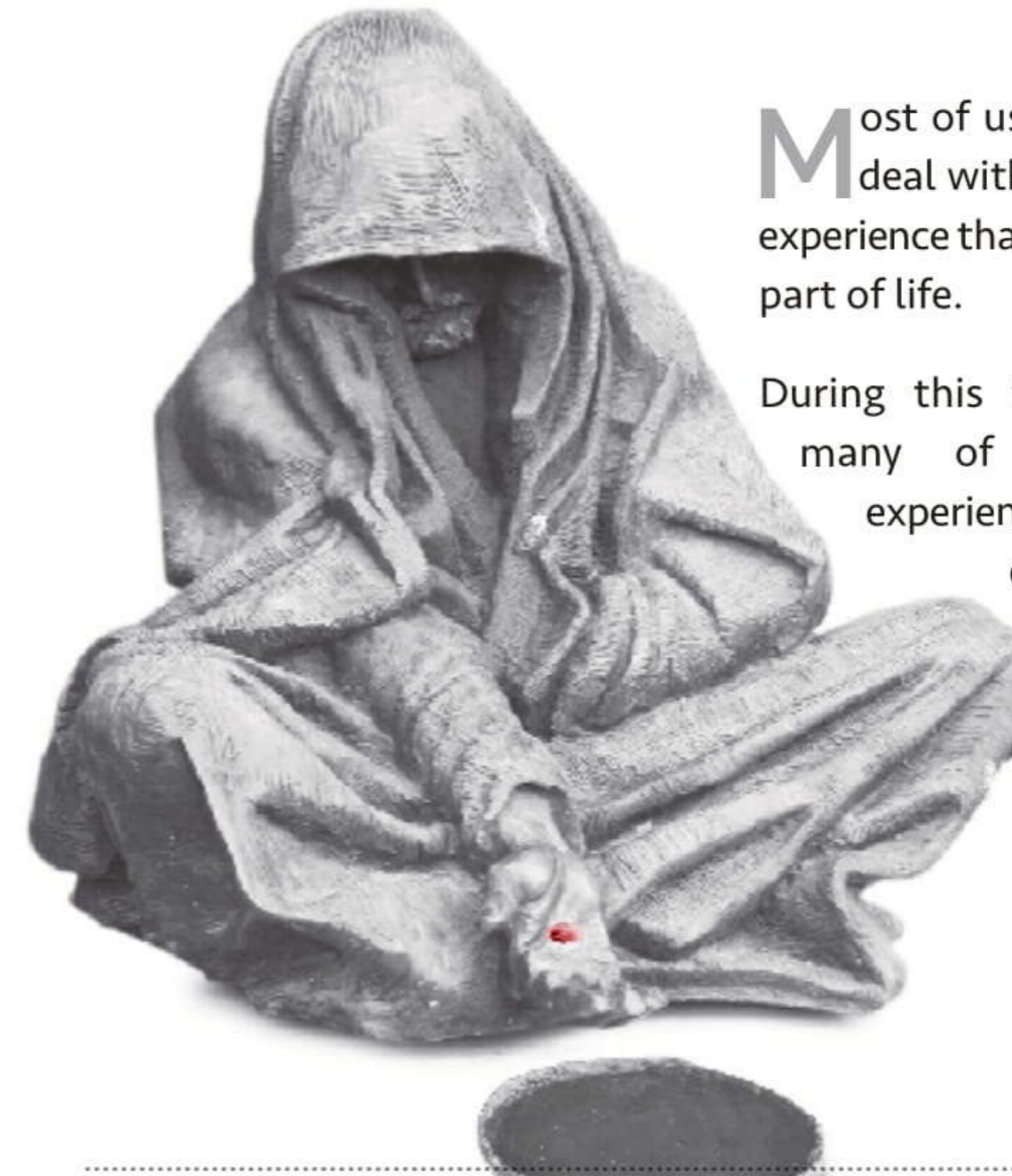
NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
5th World Day of the Poor

HOPE: BELIEVE, LIVE AND GIVE

MONTHLY THEME: THE POOR, THE TREASURE OF THE CHURCH

SEE THE FACE OF GOD IN THE POOR



Most of us find endings difficult to deal with. Yet, we know from our experience that endings are an inevitable part of life.

During this time of the pandemic, many of us have undergone experiences of change, some more distressing than others.

The loss of a job, the onset of sudden illness, the death of a loved one or some event that literally changed worlds.

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SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:

"Preserve me,
God, I take
refuge in you."

(Ps. 15: 1)

It is this kind of devastating change that the readings present to us. They speak of such a change not solely as an individual experience but also as a communal, indeed a cosmic, experience. We hear of the darkening of the sun and the shaking of the heavens, of a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence.

Whenever we experience profound change that shakes the foundations of our world and that of others, we seek stability, something firm and fixed by which we can navigate the strange territory in which we suddenly find ourselves.

The readings remind us that our faith, our relationship with the Lord, can be an indispensable resource at such times. In the Gospel reading, Jesus declares that *'heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away'*. The Lord's words to us remain a constant in the midst of even the most traumatic and world-shattering experience of change. His words will never lose their life-giving power and He is constant and enduring

The Psalmist drew strength from the Lord's enduring presence, *'I keep the Lord ever in my sight; since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm'*. We try to keep the Lord ever in our sight, the One who, according to the Second reading, offered one single sacrifice for our sins and who is working even now to achieve our eternal perfection.

As we celebrate the Fifth World Day of the Poor with the theme, *"The poor you will always have with you"* (Mk 14:7), Pope Francis challenges us to see the face of God in the lives of the poor, in their sufferings and needs, and in the inhumane conditions in which they are forced to live.

We are called to discover Christ in them, to lend them our voice in their causes, and also to be their friends, to listen to them, to understand them and to welcome the mysterious wisdom that God communicates to us through them.

The poor are ever-present in our midst. **How evangelical it would be if we could say with all truth: we too are poor,** because only then will we truly be able to recognize them, to make them part of our lives and an instrument of our salvation. ✝

SCRIPTURE
of the DAY

Daniel 12:1-3;

Ps. 15: 5. 8-11;

Hebrews 10: 11-14,
18;

Mark 13:24-32