

Remember the Poor!

Cardinal Claudio Hummes, the Brazilian Cardinal who died on July 4th, 2022, at 87, was a great friend of Pope Francis. Pope Francis said about Cardinal Hummes in his first press conference after being elected, "He hugged me, kissed me and said: 'Do not forget about the poor.' Those words were carved on my mind." Indeed, these inspiring words of Cardinal Hummes to Pope Francis have been in the mind of Pope Francis and have been reflected in his talks, homilies, and writings. Pope Francis keeps reminding us through his actions and words that the Church is the Church of the poor and for the poor. He has emphasized through the years that the Church, which doesn't remember the poor, is the Church that does not follow the mind of Christ, who was poor himself.

The invitation to remember the poor is one of the themes the readings of this Sunday invite us to reflect on. We continued in our First reading as we read last week the book of the Prophet Amos (Amos 6: 1a, 4-7), who will know was very eloquent in condemning the negligent attitude of the rich towards the poor. These warnings of Prophet Amos connect to the Gospel story today, the story of the rich man and poor man- Lazarus (Luke 16: 19-31). The rich man in the gospel went to hell, not because of his wealth or good life but because of his sin of omission. He failed to recognize the pains of the poor man- Lazarus and only indulged in self-comfort and pleasure.

We must remember that the more blessed we are with the material things of life, the more opportunities to use them to touch the lives of people around us. The more generous we are with earthly treasures, the more spiritual treasures we store for ourselves. Maybe there are people we have made invisible, or we have already passed judgment on them regarding why they are poor or wretched, or perhaps we have not thought about different ways we can remember the poor. The poor are always around us, and we can help them in various ways. Let us pray that in the comforts of our lives, we do not forget the discomforts and pains of people around us. Amen.

Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- Pray for us!