

Advent Evening Prayer
Theme: Housing and Shelter for those Who Are Poor

Gathering Song:

Reading: Eudes of Chateaux, Chronicles

The Lord Jesus lived in poverty and humility. His poverty is proved from the Gospel where we read: *Foxes have holes, and bird of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.*

At his birth he was laid in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Saint Francis also lived in poverty and humility. For the Lord's sake he gave up everything he possessed and distributed to the poor. (FAED II, 815) Franciscan breviary page 84.



Reading: Laudato Si 152: On Housing

Housing is a concern for Pope Francis. People have to live, to have a place to rest their heads at night, to eat, to conduct the affairs of family and leisure. Otherwise, the powers that be are mainly concern with people as cogs in the machines of commerce and nothing more.

152. Lack of housing is a grave problem in many parts of the world, both in rural areas and in large cities, since state budgets usually cover only a small portion of the demand. Not only the poor, but many other members of society as well, find it difficult to own a home. Having a home has much to do with a sense of personal dignity and the growth of families. This is a major issue for human ecology. In some places, where makeshift shanty towns have sprung up, this will mean developing those neighborhoods rather than razing or displacing them. When the poor live in unsanitary slums or in dangerous tenements, “in cases where it is necessary to relocate them, in order not to heap suffering upon suffering, adequate information needs to be given beforehand, with choices of decent housing offered, and the people directly involved must be part of the process.” [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church 482]

For reflection and sharing during Advent

- What steps will these readings inspire me to take?
- How can I be made aware of those who need housing?
- How will I live out my option for those who are poor?

Closing: “Let me be clear: There is no social or moral justification. No justification whatsoever for the lack of housing.” Pope Francis, Washington, DC, September 23—24, 2015