Dilexi te

Preferential Option for the Poor

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Key Stage 2 activity on the Preferential Option for the Poor. Film and discussion. 45–60 minutes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

I can explain what the Preferential Option for the Poor means, and give an example of it.

Success criteria

- I can explain what it means to put people living in poverty first
- I can describe how one community changed things for themselves
- I can say what people living in poverty can teach the rest of us

The Preferential Option for the Poor:

People living in poverty should be put first.

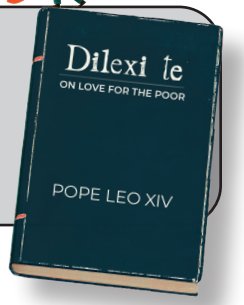
In Dilexi te, Pope Leo says putting people who are poor and vulnerable first can free us from selfishness and open our ears to their cry *(DT7)*.

In our world today, many people lack clean water, enough food to eat, a safe place to live and the chance to go to school or see a doctor.

Pope Leo reminds us that people living in poverty are part of our human family. He asks us to make a radical choice: put them first, love them and help them.

This is called the Preferential Option for the Poor.

> **God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest.**
>
> *Dilexi te*, 16



CAFOD
A better world needs all of us

CAFOD and the Preferential Option for the Poor

CAFOD works with communities across the world where need is greatest, helping build a world where everyone has what they need to live well.

Maggie at the solar-powered water pump

Maggie and her friend at school

Activity: Catholic Social Teaching in action

Watch the film 'How water projects are helping communities in Zimbabwe'.

Link:

youtube.com/watch?v=H8fzCJ_Zv_c

Questions for reflection

- What would happen if you did not have water at school or at home?
- How have the solar-powered water pumps helped Maggie and her community?
- Why is this project an example of the Preferential Option for the Poor?
- Which other Catholic Social Teaching principles link to Maggie's story and why?
- How can we put people most in need first?

Explore our resources to help your pupils put love in action cafod.org.uk/schools

Photos: Thom Flint/CAFOD, Illustrators: V Srodi/M Nino/Ministory