

## *Jesus Brother of the Poor.*

*From the beginning of his life, Jesus was homeless,  
for there was no place for him in the inn.*

*When his parents took him to Jerusalem for the  
first time they were numbered among the  
poor and they offered the gift of the poor.*

*As a child he was a refugee, forced to flee the  
hatred that broke out in persecution, to leave  
his own land and live in exile.*

*As a boy, he was able to confound the learned  
teachers with his wisdom, but he still worked  
with his hands as a humble carpenter like his  
foster father, Joseph.*

*After explaining the scriptures in the synagogue at  
Nazareth, the carpenter's son was rejected.*

*Even one of the disciples chosen to follow him  
asked "Can anything good come out of  
Nazareth?"*

*He was also the victim of injustice and torture  
and was put to death without anyone coming  
to his defense.*

*He was the brother of the poor; it was his mission  
-- for he was sent by God the Father and  
anointed by the Spirit -- to proclaim the  
Gospel to the poor.*

John Paul II, Manila 1981