

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- Describe your overall response to the film. Limit your response to one word or phrase.
- Which scenes in the film did you find most powerful? How did they affect you?
- What do you think are some of the causes of poverty? Which causes are within your sphere of influence?
- To really understand the causes of poverty, the film says, "We must spend time with the poor." How can you do this?
- Read the suggested responses found on p. 2. What other possibilities might be considered?
- What could be your first steps to respond to the needs of the poor?
- Choose one or two quotes from the film to reflect on and discuss further (see p. 3).



*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
We are caught in an inescapable network of
mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny."*

—REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Remember:

- Every minute of every day 20 children die of hunger or diseases related to hunger.
- Two-thirds of humanity lives in crippling poverty.
- Globally about 800 million people do not have access to adequate food and nutrition. Of those, 200 million are children.
- 300 million people subsist on less than 65 cents a day.
- In America 700,000 people are without shelter on any given night.
- In Africa 15% of children die before age 5.
- 20% of the world's population consumes 85% of all goods and services; the poorest 20% consumes 1%.
- 20,000 to 40,000 children under age 5 will die from the economic consequences of September 11, 2001.

SOURCE OF STATISTICS: BREAD FOR THE WORLD

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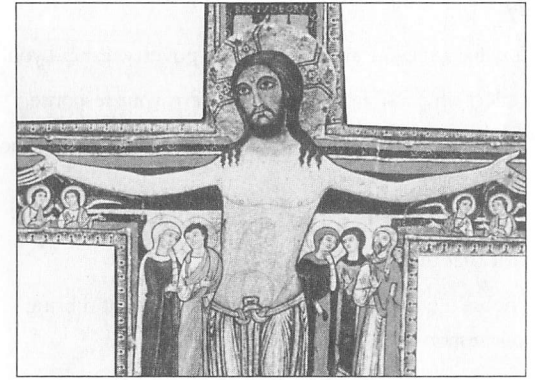
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When Did I See You Hungry?



*The face of a suffering human being,
The face of the crucified,
The face of the poor,
The face of Christ.*

A note from filmmaker Gerry Straub:

"It is so easy to become overwhelmed by the colossal scope of the problem of global hunger. All we can do is realize our own limitations and humbly ask God's help to formulate a response that works for each of us personally. While no one can do it all, each of us must do everything we can. Not knowing what to do is not an excuse to do nothing. The simple answer is: do what you can...just do something and do it well, and let God's grace do the rest. We must fight the feeling that one person cannot make a difference."

What can YOU do?

Some suggested responses:

Pray

- Pray for a greater awareness of the poverty around you.
- Reflect on possible responses. Discern your response.
- Choose a quote from the film; meditate on its relevance to your life.
- Call to mind one image from the film. Sit in silence with that image.
- Choose a question for reflection (see p. 5) and bring your response to prayer.

Adjust your lifestyle

- Donate part of your wardrobe to the poor.
- Cook simple meals.
- Fast for a day in solidarity with the hungry.
- Drink only water with meals.
- Tithe a percentage of your income to a charity involved with the poor.
- Think twice before spending on nonessential items.

Get involved

- Work at a soup kitchen, and eat with the poor.
- Organize a children's clothing drive.
- Support a refugee family.
- Offer your time as a tutor.
- Become informed about the poor by reading or checking Web sites of organizations that minister to them.

- Write your congressional representatives in support of programs for the poor.
- Contact a local charity and find out where volunteers are needed.

Words to remember from the film:

"The true moral fiber of any society is revealed by how it treats its weakest members."

"We are all brothers and sisters, and to set yourself up as higher or better than others is a subtle form of blasphemy."

"The seduction of property blinds us to the needs of the poor."

"We are all connected. If one among us is diminished, we are all diminished."

"Our greatest violation of poverty is to hold the good God gives—goodness has to flow."

"The essence of Christ's message is: make every stranger, no matter how poor or unlovable, your neighbor."

"In our encounters with the poor we must move from pity to love, from charity to justice."

"As long as we enjoy comfort and require security, it will be impossible to have true compassion for the poor and the weak."



"Consuming more than we need is stealing from those in need."

"Compassion is far removed from pity and sympathy. Compassion grows out of an awareness of our common humanity."

"Giving a few dollars to the poor is not the same as being one with the poor, which is what Christ requires."

"Every act of mercy and kindness brings us closer to the reality of God."

"We are all poor. We are all completely dependent upon God. But our money, power or social status can blind us to the reality of how poor we are, and how much we need God's love and mercy."

"The best way to love God is to relieve the pain and suffering of others."

"We have the means to feed everyone on earth. We do not have the will to do it. This is a tremendous evil."