

Name: _____

TYPES OF POVERTY

Identify the following scenarios as examples of poverty of soul, poverty of spirit, or material poverty. Be able to explain your choices.

soul

spirit

material

1. John tries to support his wife and two toddlers on a minimum-wage job.
2. Mary, an outstanding gymnast, gives thanks and praise to God for her gifts when she is interviewed by the media.
3. In the United States, 775,000 people are homeless.
4. Tim, a \$225,000-a-year investment consultant, is getting divorced after ten years of marriage. His wife claims “he is married to his job, not me.”
5. Mary, a highly respected and successful lawyer, drinks heavily to try to ease her loneliness.
6. Terry, a wealthy accountant, volunteers through his parish to help the underprivileged and aged complete their tax forms free of charge.
7. Mike is unable to get surgery to repair a torn leg muscle because he cannot afford the cost of surgery and does not have medical insurance.
8. Jenny is forced to live in a crime-ridden, rat-infested tenement with her mother and two brothers.
9. Tom doesn't have time for Mass or to be with his family—he spends most of his time at the gym, working out.
10. Pro basketball player Mark holds religious music concerts after games, witnessing to the power of Jesus in his life.
11. Sharon gets an abortion because she feels that the weight gain and body changes associated with pregnancy will ruin her chances in future beauty contests.
12. James, a grandfather, spends countless hours with Habitat for Humanity helping poor families build their own homes.

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LIVE FOR OTHERS

Read the following excerpt from Father Pedro Arrupe, S.J.'s "Men for Others":

Today our prime educational objective must be to form [persons]-for-others; [people] who will not live for themselves but for God and his Christ—for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; [people] who cannot even conceive of a love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors . . . is a farce. (no. 2)

How do we get this principle of justice through love down to the level of reality, the reality of our daily lives? By cultivating in ourselves three attitudes:

First, a firm determination to live much more simply—as individuals, as families, as social groups—and in this way to stop short, or at least to slow down, the expanding spiral of luxurious living and social competition. Let us have men and women who will resolutely set themselves against the tide of our consumer society. Men and women who, instead of feeling compelled to acquire everything that their friends have will do away with many of the luxuries which in their social set have become necessities, but which the majority of mankind must do without. And if this produces surplus income, well and good; let it be given to those for whom the necessities of life are still luxuries beyond their reach.

Second, a firm determination to draw no profit whatsoever from clearly unjust sources. . . .

Third, and most difficult: a firm resolve to be agents of change in society; not merely resisting unjust structures and arrangements, but actively undertaking to reform them. . . .(no. 55-58)

Answer the following questions based on this reading:

1. What is a "person-for-others" according to Father Arrupe?
2. In your own words, what are the three strategies to bring about justice for the poor?
3. In light of paragraph #3, what are some of the "luxuries which in [your] social set have become necessities"?
4. Do you, as paragraph #3 suggests, feel like you have to have all the things your friends have? If yes, or even if you feel you have to have *some* of the things your friends have, why? What contributes to consumerism?
5. What are some personal steps you can take to live more simply?

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BIBLE RESEARCH: WEALTH

Read and summarize the following Scripture passages on wealth. In light of these passages, give your conclusion to the question “Can a wealthy person enter the kingdom of heaven?”

MATTHEW 6:19–24

MATTHEW 6:24

MATTHEW 19:16–26

LUKE 6:24

LUKE 19:1–10

MATTHEW 27:57–60

1 TIMOTHY 6:7–10

1 TIMOTHY 6:17–19

What do these passages say about having money? Can a rich person be a good Christian?