

<p style="text-align: center" class="MsoNoSpacing" align="center"><font color="#000000"><strong>THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS SHEC♦S FOUNDATION <br /></strong></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">SHEC is founded on the two essentials of the life of Jesus Christ: communion with his Father and the proclamation of the kingdom of God which is centered on the good news to the poor. Such preferential option for the poor is very clear in the Old and New Testaments.<span>♦ </span>Thus, the essence of the empowerment of the poorest of the poor is highly grounded on (i) God♦s solidarity with the ♦<em>Anawim</em>, the poor and oppressed, by liberating them from Egypt; and (ii) on Jesus♦ life and mission, by proclaiming the Kingdom of God with a specific preference for the poor. </span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">♦Also, it is remarkable to note that God♦s preferential option for the poor in the Old Testament was called by Jesus as Good News to the Poor when he proclaimed the Kingdom of God. </span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">♦</span><strong><em><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">Old Testament<span class="MsoFootnoteReference"></span></span></em></strong></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">God has manifested his concern for people, not souls. This is the God of the Bible who opted to be with his people, the Israelites, especially during their enslavement in Egypt. He journeyed with them all the way, until they reached the Promised Land. Moreover, even after such tortuous journey, He continued to show His unconditional love for them. </span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">♦The biblical narratives simply present that God had manifested who He was to the people through his actions. He showed that He was a God who cared for, justified and liberated His people. This was clearly and concretely witnessed when He led the Israelites out of Egypt. It was His preferential love for the slaves that made Him known to the people. One way to point this out is through the ensuing passage: <em>I am Yahweh your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, where you lived as slaves. You shall have no gods but me.<a name="\_ftnref1" href="/#\_ftn1" title="\_ftnref1"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><strong><span style="font-size: 11pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">[1]</span></strong></span></span></span></a></em></span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'"><span><br /></span></span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">The <em>anawim</em> in the book of Isaiah are the really poor ones who are oppressed. They do not mean the spiritually poor. Moreover, according to Abesamis, ♦the more accurate meaning is ♦poor and oppressed.♦♦<span class="MsoFootnoteReference"> <a name="\_ftnref2" href="/#\_ftn2" title="\_ftnref2"><span><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 11pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">[2]</span></span></span></a></span> Literally, ♦the <em>anawim</em> are the humiliated, the downtrodden, and the abased,♦<span class="MsoFootnoteReference"> <a name="\_ftnref3" href="/#\_ftn3" title="\_ftnref3"><span><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 11pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif'">[3]</span></span></span></a></span>

title="\_ftnref3"><span><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 11pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial', 'sans-serif'">[3]</span></span></span></a></span><span>◆ </span>Barreiro adds. Because of their situation, they can hardly defend themselves in the face of their oppressors. <br /></span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><strong><em><span style="font-family: 'Arial', 'sans-serif'">New Testament<span class="MsoFootnoteReference"> </span></span></em></strong></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial', 'sans-serif'">In the life of Jesus, his main preoccupation was to proclaim the Kingdom of God. And the most important aspect of the Kingdom of God is Good News to the poor.<a name="\_ftnref4" href="/#\_ftn4" title="\_ftnref4"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 11pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial', 'sans-serif'">[4]</span></span></span></span></a><span>◆◆ </span>The mission of Jesus Christ is to proclaim the Kingdom of God. </span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial', 'sans-serif'">Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (Mark 1:14-15; italics mine) <br /></span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-size: 12pt; font-family: 'Arial', 'sans-serif'">Option for the poor is very clear in his mission statements, teachings and actions. This is translated in bringing good news to them. In his mission statements, it stands out that his option for the poor is very unambiguous.</span></font></p> <p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-size: 12pt; font-family: 'Arial', 'sans-serif'">Thus, SHEC endeavors to follow Jesus Christ by its preferential option for the poor as seen in its living with and service for the poor through its community building approach and strategy. And as seen below, at the heart of these is the Kingdom of God:</span></font></p><p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing">◆</p><p style="text-align: justify" class="MsoNoSpacing"><font color="#000000">◆</font></p><div style="text-align: center"><a href="images/stories/sheccba.jpg" target="\_blank"></a></div><p>◆</p> <div><font color="#000000"><br /></font> <hr width="33%" size="1" /> <div id="ftn1"> <p style="margin-right: 1in; text-align: justify; text-indent: 27pt" class="MsoNormal"><font color="#000000"><a name="\_ftn1" href="/#\_ftnref1" title="\_ftn1"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 10pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'"><span><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 10pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'">[1]</span></span></span></span></a><span style="font-size: 10pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'"> Ex 20:2-3 NJB (New Jerusalem Bible) all the biblical passages are taken from NJB. </span></font></p> </div> <div id="ftn2"> <p style="margin-left: 0.5in; text-align: justify; text-indent: -9pt" class="MsoNormal"><font color="#000000"><a name="\_ftn2" href="/#\_ftnref2" title="\_ftn2"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 10pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'"><span><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 10pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'">

'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif">[2]</span></span></span></span></a><span style="font-size: 10pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'"> Carlos Abesamis, S.J.,<span>◆ </span><em>A</em> <em>Third Look at Jesus</em>, (Philippines: Claretian Publications, 1993), 135.</span></font></p> </div> <div id="ftn3"> <p style="text-align: justify; text-indent: 27pt" class="MsoFootnoteText"><font color="#000000"><a name="\_ftn3" href="/#\_ftnref3" title="\_ftn3"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 10pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'">[3]</span></span></span></span></a><span style="font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'"> Alvaro Barreiro, <em>Basic Ecclesial Communities: The Evangelization of the Poor </em>(Manila: Claretian Publications, 1997), 14.</span></font></p> </div> <div id="ftn4"> <p style="margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; text-indent: 27pt; line-height: normal" class="105Garind"><font color="#000000"><a name="\_ftn4" href="/#\_ftnref4" title="\_ftn4"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'; color: windowtext"><span class="MsoFootnoteReference"><span style="font-size: 10.5pt; line-height: 115%; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'">[4]</span></span></span></span></a><span style="font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'; color: windowtext"> </span><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'; color: windowtext">This has reference to</span><span style="font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'; color: windowtext"> </span><span style="font-size: 10pt; font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'; color: windowtext">. ◆ the <em>poor </em>have the good news brought to them. (Mt 11:5 = Lk 7:22)◆ to proclaim the good news to the <em>poor</em> (Lk 4:18). Blessed are you who are <em>poor</em>, for yours is the Kingdom of God (Lk 6:20).</span></font></p> <p style="text-indent: 27pt" class="MsoFootnoteText"><font color="#000000"><span style="font-family: 'Arial Narrow', 'sans-serif'">◆</span></font></p> </div> </div>