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**THE PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR AS THE REALIZATION OF
THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE. FROM GLOBAL AND POLISH PERSPECTIVES**

SUMMARY

The contemporary world is challenged by poverty. A particular form of serving the poor is a „preferential option for the poor”, also known as the „preferential love for the poor”. This option is developed on the basis of the Church’s social teaching on social solidarity and love which imitate Christ in His attitude toward the poor. The article presents the origin, nature, and ways of realizing the preferential love for the poor in the modern world and in the life of the Church. It starts with explaining the meaning of the word *poor* (*poverty*), then draws attention to the various manifestations of poverty in Poland and in the world. It also reflects on the moral responsibility for the current scale of poverty. The analyses embrace the teaching of Pope John Paul II. His words and the example of his life were an urgent appeal to all the people of good will to change the situation of the poor. The topic have been presented against the background of socio-economic sciences.

KEYWORDS: preferential option for the poor, moral theology, Pope John Paul II, commandment of love, Christianity.

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