



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FROM THE VATICAN, 11 October 2010

No. 157.170

Your Eminence,

The Holy Father is pleased to greet you, together with Bishop Toso and all those who have travelled to Rome to participate in the Symposium entitled "*Caritas in Veritate* and the United States". He is grateful to Father James Heft, SM, of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies of the University of Southern California, and to Professor Daniel Finn of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, as well as to all those in the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace who helped organize this important event.

Recent global events have reminded us of the importance of sustained Christian reflection on the nature and goal of economic life in the United States and throughout the world. Your gathering in these days is a good opportunity to reflect upon *Caritas in Veritate* and upon its identification of the twin demands of love and truth on our lives as citizens, entrepreneurs, workers, business students and, above all, as followers of Christ.

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His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson  
President  
Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

00120 VATICAN CITY

The foundation of *Caritas in Veritate* is the Mystery of Christ. In Christ's death and resurrection, God removes all that stands in the way of right relationships between God and the world, among human beings, and between humanity and the rest of creation. Integral human development is included in this restoration of all things to their proper order. It is from this point of departure that *Caritas in Veritate* considers economic development in terms of the true trajectory needed for human flourishing, recognizing as the Church does the dignity of human life in its fullness, including a concern for life from conception to natural death, for religious liberty, for the alleviation of poverty, and for the care of creation.


In the context of globalization and "the explosion of worldwide interdependence", *Caritas in Veritate* calls for a "person-based and community-oriented process of integration" (nos. 33, 42). Although the adoption of a market-oriented economy by many countries and the integration of these economies into international markets has helped to lift millions of people out of poverty, much remains to be done in order to address various concerns about food security and about the inequality, poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, and materialism that continue to compromise all human communities in varying degrees, with destructive consequences for the future of our planet and of the human family.

"The Church's social doctrine has always maintained that justice must be applied to every phase of economic activity,

because this is always concerned with man and his needs ... thus every economic decision has a moral consequence" (no. 37). The question of business education and business practice, therefore, becomes a radically anthropological one: when it comes to business, we are called to respect not only profit, but also the moral conditions of those who pursue it and hence the overall national and international consequences of every economic activity. Moreover, "economic life undoubtedly requires *contracts*, in order to regulate relations of exchange between goods of equivalent value. But it also needs *just laws* and *forms of redistribution* governed by politics and, what is more, it needs works redolent of the *spirit of gift*. The economy in the global era seems to favor the logic of contractual exchange, but it also demonstrates its need for political logic and the logic of the unconditional gift" (*ibid.*). If we engage in this effort, recognizing the call to practice truth in love, we will respond authentically to the Lord's command to "make disciples of all the nations" (cf. *Mk* 16:9-20).

With these sentiments, the Holy Father is pleased to entrust your work to the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and he willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing to all participants as a pledge of grace and peace.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanislaus Card. Kurtz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary of State