



Catholic Truth League

20 January 2017

Induite vos arma Dei

Ineffable Creator, who from the treasures of your wisdom, have established three hierarchies of angels, have arrayed them in marvelous order above the fiery Heavens, and have marshaled the regions of the universe with such artful skill, You are proclaimed the True Font of Light and Wisdom, and the primal origin raised high beyond all things.

Pour forth a ray of your brightness into the darkened places of my mind; disperse from my soul the twofold darkness into which I was born: sin and ignorance. You make eloquent the tongues of infants. Refine my speech, and pour forth upon my lips the goodness of your blessings. Grant to me keenness of mind, capacity to remember, skill in learning, subtlety to interpret and eloquence in speech.

May you guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to completion. You who are True God and True Man, who live and reign world without end. Amen.
(St. Thomas Aquinas)

Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for Us!

Announcements

Upcoming meetings

Jan 27: Vatican II

Feb 2: What are souls?

Feb 10: Theology of the Body - room 24

All meetings are 7-8:30 pm in room 3 unless otherwise noted.



General Information

President: David Schena

Vice President: Mick Krane

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This Week in CTL

Topic: Christian Economics

Subtopics

1. Personal finance and tithing
2. Corporate economics, class and labor
3. Welfare and society

Personal Finance

Tithing and Financial Responsibility

- Tithing: giving a percentage of one's earnings to the Church
 - 10% is the usual figure; this comes from Leviticus 27:30, which states that "a tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's, and is holy."
 - This was meant to support the priests (see Numbers 18:20-21).
- The Church teaches that the faithful should contribute to the material needs of the Church as best they can, but it does not teach that all Catholics must tithe.

Generosity vs. Greed

- Generosity: readiness to give more of something (e.g. money or time) than is strictly necessary or expected
 - God's gift of himself to mankind in Christ is the ultimate form of generosity, serving as a model for human generosity.
- Greed: an obsession with accumulating material goods; valuing them more than God and others.
 - To want things is not necessarily sinful; only in becoming an obsession or impediment to proper relationships with God/others does it become a sin.

This Week in CTL (continued)

Corporate Economics, Class and Labor

In *Rerum Novarum*, Pope Leo XIII cites Thomas Aquinas' philosophy to show that private ownership of goods is a natural right for man, and that the fruits of man's labor should be his own.

- However, every man should regard his property as for the common good. This is not to say, though, that all property should be common.

Pope Leo is critical of socialism and communism because they reclaim the worker's fairly earned wages to be redistributed to others, unjustly "[robbing] the lawful possessor, [distorting] the functions of the State, and [creating] utter confusion in the community."

- Public aid is justifiable in extreme need "since each family is part of the commonwealth."
- The purpose of the government in the economic realm is not to sustain individuals, but to ensure that the natural rights are safeguarded and intervene only when they are gravely disturbed.

Class and Marxism

- Pope Leo writes that the wealthy and working classes are naturally meant to live in harmony, not conflict (as Marx believed), as both are needed by the other.

Workers and employers

- Responsibilities of the worker:
 - Perform the work freely agreed upon
 - Never damage the property of or outrage his employer
 - Never resort to violence, riot or disorder in defending his own cause
 - "...have nothing to do with men of evil principles" who promise much and do little or nothing
- Responsibilities of the employer
 - Ensure the worker need not neglect his family or squander his earnings
 - Leave adequate time for religious duties
 - Preserving the worker from "corrupting influences and dangerous occasions"
 - Not overworking or giving jobs unsuited to the sex or age of the employee
 - Pay just wages and not defraud these by force, fraud or avarice

Welfare and Society

- The corporal works of mercy obligate us to provide a form of welfare for others.
- As individuals, we should care for the poor, and so should society
 - Methods by which society does so are open for debate
 - Any welfare provided by society does not absolve the individual's responsibility
- Solidarity and subsidiarity form the basis for Church teaching on welfare.

Resources and Further Reading

Pope Leo XIII (1891). *Rerum Novarum* - encyclical on the rights and duties of capital and labor

Demarco, Donald (2003). "The Virtue of Generosity" - available online at catholiceducation.org

Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2401-2463 - The Seventh Commandment (including economic rights, responsibilities and social teachings)

