

CARITAS IN VERITATE
PAPAL ENCYCLICAL



Unpacking the New Papal Encyclical

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Long Awaited

- ❖ Originally planned to mark the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's 1967 encyclical *Populorum Progressio (On the Development of Peoples)*
- ❖ Delayed in part due to the need to address the global economic crisis
- ❖ Offers moral guidance on the economic and ecological crises and global poverty



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Workshop Outline

- ❖ Explore the teaching of the encyclical
- ❖ Discuss part of the teaching
- ❖ Identify ways to help Catholics “in the pew” explore the teaching
- ❖ Offer tips and resources



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Part I

Exploring the Teaching of the Encyclical

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Anchored in God's Love and Truth

- ❖ **“Charity in truth” is embodied in Jesus Christ.**
- ❖ **“Charity in truth” is our “vocation.”**
- ❖ **“Charity in truth” applies to both “micro-relationships” and “macro-relationships.”**
- ❖ **Economic choices are moral choices.**

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Charity and Justice

- ❖ “Charity in truth” is the basic “principle” of the Church’s social doctrine.
- ❖ Two critical moral criteria: justice and the common good.
 - Justice is “intrinsic” to charity.
 - Love demands that we seek the “common good.”

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Chapter 1: The Message of *Populorum Progressio*

❖ Two truths:

- The Church in “her being and acting” promotes integral human development.
- Authentic human development concerns the whole person in every dimension.

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Chapter 1: The Message of *Populorum Progressio*

- ❖ The Church's social doctrine is unchanging and ever new.



Populorum Progressio

- ❖ Affirms the links between
 - Life ethics and social ethics
 - Human advancement and evangelization
- ❖ Human development is a “vocation,” not a task. It flows from our relationship with God.

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Populorum Progressio

- ❖ Institutions are not enough. The responsible exercise of freedom is needed.
- ❖ But economic structures and institutions are important.



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Chapter 2: Human Development in Our Time

- ❖ **The current economic crisis is an opportunity to chart a new course more respectful of the human person.**



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Chapter 2: Human Development in Our Time

- ❖ Profit is useful, but if it is an exclusive goal, it can create poverty.
- ❖ Wealth is growing, but inequalities are growing as well, due to many factors.



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Chapter 2 Outlines Six Concerns:

1. The Downsizing of Social Security Systems
 - a) Price of competition in the global market
 - b) “Grave danger to the rights of workers”
 - c) The primary “capital” is “the human person.”



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Chapter 2 Outlines Six Concerns:

2. Hunger Claims “Enormous Numbers of Victims”
 - a) Must address “structural causes” of hunger
 - b) Access to food and water are universal rights
 - c) Prosperity of rich and poor nations is linked



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Chapter 2 Outlines Six Concerns:

3. “Respect for life” cannot “be detached from ... the development of peoples.”
 - a) “Openness to life is at the centre of true development.”
 - b) Opens “wealthy peoples” to “the needs of poor ones.”

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Chapter 2 Outlines Six Concerns:

- 4. Denial of the Right of Religious Freedom**
 - a) Violence in the name of religion impedes development.**
 - b) Religious indifference deprives people of “spiritual and human resources.”**

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Chapter 2 Outlines Six Concerns:

5. The Rights of Workers

- a) Excessive disparities are to be avoided. Steady employment is a priority goal.**
- b) Lowering protection of the “rights of workers” hinders “lasting development.”**
- c) “Workers’ associations” or unions remain important.**



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Chapter 2 Outlines Six Concerns:

6. Trade must be fair.

“High tariffs imposed by economically developed countries” harm poor countries.



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Chapter 3: Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society

- ❖ The principle of “gratuitousness,” “logic of gift”



Chapter 3: Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society

❖ **“Original Sin in social conditions and in the structure of society”**

The market cannot be “autonomous” and “shielded from ‘influences’ of a moral character.” This has led “to abuse of the economic process in a thoroughly destructive way” (34, 36).



Chapter 3: Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society

- ❖ The market is subject to “*commutative justice,*” but “*distributive justice and social justice*” are also important for the “market economy” (35).
- ❖ The poor are a “resource,” not a “burden” (35).

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Chapter 3: Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society

- ❖ **“Commercial logic” alone is not enough; the political community has a responsibility to help direct economic activity “towards pursuit of the common good” (36).**

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Chapter 3: Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society

- ❖ **New business models that take into account shareholders and stakeholders**
- ❖ **Financial practices that do not sacrifice long-term sustainability to short-term profit**

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Chapter 3: Fraternity, Economic Development and Civil Society

- ❖ **A strong civil society and a creative interplay between the “non-profit” and “profit”**
- ❖ **An appropriate role for government**
- ❖ **Humanization of globalization**



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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ Rights without duties become mere license.



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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ The myth of population growth as a primary cause of poverty and “responsible procreation.”



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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ Defense of marriage, family and family support

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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ **The economy needs “people-centered” ethics**
 - This ethics must permeate private and public spheres, and civil and for-profit institutions

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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ **International assistance and development programs must respect “the centrality of the human person.”**
 - a) **People have a right to participate in their own development.**

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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ International assistance and development programs must respect “the centrality of the human person.”
 - b) Transparency should encourage more aid and less administrative overhead.

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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ The environment is a gift for which we have responsibility toward the poor, future generations and the entire human family.

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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ **Natural resource exploitation can lead to conflict; poor countries should be involved in regulating the use of their resources.**
- ❖ **“Advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption....” (49)**

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Chapter 4: The Development of People – Rights and Duties – the Environment

- ❖ “The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and *vice versa*.”
- ❖ “The book of nature is one and indivisible” (51).

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Chapter 5: The Cooperation of the Human Family

- ❖ **“The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family. . .” (53).**

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Chapter 5: The Cooperation of the Human Family

- ❖ **Religion can contribute to “authentic human development.”**
- ❖ **Subsidiarity and solidarity are linked.**



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Chapter 5 Addresses Several Critical Issues:

- ❖ The rights and contributions of migrants
- ❖ The rights of workers/importance of unions



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Chapter 5 Addresses Several Critical Issues:

- ❖ The misuse of finance and its redirection to sustain “true development”
- ❖ The social responsibility of consumers (fair trade)



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Chapter 5 Addresses Several Critical Issues:

- ❖ The development of “true world political authority”



Chapter 6: The Development of Peoples and Technology

- ❖ The person shapes his/her own development, but must look within for “the natural moral law” (68).
- ❖ Technology enables us to “improve our conditions of life.” It can answer “how,” but not “why” (69, 70).



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Chapter 6: The Development of Peoples and Technology

- ❖ Technical skills/tools to promote development and build peace are crucial; but these tasks are “impossible” without “upright men and women” (71, 72).



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Chapter 6: The Development of Peoples and Technology

- ❖ **Communications technologies should have a “civilizing” or humanizing effect.**

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Chapter 6: The Development of Peoples and Technology

- ❖ **Biotechnology presents a special opportunity and challenge. Faith and reason are required.**



Chapter 6: The Development of Peoples and Technology

- ❖ **Human development requires both “material growth” and “spiritual growth.”**

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Conclusion

“Without God man neither knows which way to go, nor even understands who he is” (78).

“God's love ... gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all.... God gives us the strength to fight and suffer for love of the common good, because he is our All, our greatest hope” (78).

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Part 2

**Discussing the Teaching and
Ways to Help Catholics
Explore the Encyclical**

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Part 3

Resources and Tips

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USCCB RESOURCES

**Text of the Encyclical available from
USCCB Publishing, Vatican Web site
See www.usccb.org/jphd/caritasinveritate**

Prayer and Study Resources

Individual Reflection Guide (16 sessions)

Small Group Study Guides (4 sessions)

Action Guide

more to come!

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Ten Tips for Sharing the Encyclical

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Ten Tips for Sharing the Encyclical

1. Create a space conducive to faith sharing. Establish an atmosphere and ground rules.
2. Don't use it as a club! Focus on faith and principles, not on ideology.
3. Acknowledge that prudential judgments are involved as we move from principles to their application.

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Ten Tips for Sharing the Encyclical

4. Give the issues of poverty at home and abroad a human face. See CCHD, CRS's *Work of Human Hands*, and *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* (CCGP).
5. Resist focusing on issues with which you are comfortable, e.g., do both life and social ethics.

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Ten Tips for Sharing the Encyclical

6. Infuse the teaching of the encyclical into parish life. Do not allow it to be relegated to the margins.
7. Infuse its themes into prayer and liturgy. We celebrate what is important to us.
8. Integrate it into preaching and teaching.

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Ten Tips for Sharing the Encyclical

9. Provide opportunities for direct action; e.g., sell fair trade items, raise money for CCHD or CRS, become involved with a local CCHD group.
10. Encourage public policy advocacy. Join *Catholics Confront Global Poverty* and the networks for JPHD, Pro-Life, Catholic Charities USA, and Justice for Immigrants.

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“Charity in truth, to which Jesus Christ bore witness by his earthly life and especially by his death and resurrection, is the principal driving force behind the authentic development of every person and of all humanity. Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace” (1).

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