

HUMANIZING HUMAN ACTIVITY

Fraternal Economy

Fraternal-Sororal Economy for an Inclusive & Sustainable Development

- **SEE: The Situation:**
- *New York Times International (Wed. Feb.8, 2023) : “Tent bt Tent, counting Americas’s homeless.*
 - *Armed with flashlight teams nationwide try to enumerate the problem. Peeking behind dumpsters, shining flashlights under bridges, rustling a frosted tent to see if anyone is inside: this is what it takes to count the people in America who do not have a place to live.*
 - *It is quest for a number tom describe a deeply entrenched problem.*
 - *Last year the Biden administration laid out a goal to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025.*
 - *In local politics, ambitious programs to build affordable housing gets opposition from homeowners: solution should be far from their communities*
 - *In the USA, homelessness is a subject in which declarations of urgency outweigh measurable progress.*
 - *On any given evening, the forces which drive someone to sleep outside or in a shelter are myriad and complex:*
 - *A longrun esrosion in wages*
 - *A fraying social safety net*
 - *Fact that hard drugs are cheap and mental healthcare is not..*
 - *High cost of housing and difficulty finding anything affordable.*
 - *ie. Expensive West Coast cities, like Los Angeles, have the nation’s worst problem with homelessness*
 - *---Growing cities, like Phoenix are seeing a troubling rise*
 - *---- in Rockford, Illinois, a once thriving factory town that has lost jobs but has cheap housing.*

SITUATION: *SEEING*

- *Composition of the homeless:*
 - *Disproportionately Black*
 - *Disproportionately old and*
 - *Disproportionately sick*
 - *Members of LGBTQ community are overrepresented as well*
- *Point-in-Time count throughout the country thru. last 10 days of January over past dozen years shows 550,000 to 650,000 people experience homelessness, a snapshot which creates a shared understanding of a common problem!*

The Big Picture: Money moving to the Top

INEQUALITIES IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Assets:

- **Bottom 50% own** \$ 03.98 T (Federal Reserve 2022 Q1 data)
- **Middle 50-90% own** \$ 39.88 T
- **Top (with three subdivisions)**
 - **90-99% own** \$ 52.92 T
 - **99-99.9% own** \$ 27.02 T
 - **.01 % owns** \$ 18.24 T

 - **Total Citizen assets** \$ 142.04 T

- **As of Nov. 2022, the US's 728 billionaires' wealth was up 50% since the start of the pandemic.**

Wages:

- **For most American workers, real (inflation-adjusted wages) have barely budged in decades**
- **18% of Americans are legally poor (family of 4 under \$26,496)**
 - **US federal minimum wage is \$7.25 = \$15,000 annually**
 - **Some states adopting higher minimum wages A**

Pope Francis: *Let us dream a new Future*

- *Fratelli tutti: Brothers & Sisters, we all are!*
- *New humanism that extols:*
 - *Relationality (Relational Beings...for*
 - *Cooperation & Dialogue)*
 - *Equality*
 - *Good Samaritan ethic*
 - *Integral Human growth & development*

- *Cf. 75th Anniversary of UN Universal Declaration of Human - rights*

75th Anniversary of UN Declaration of Human Rights

- *Rerum Novarum* of Pope John XXIII
- *UN Declaration of Human Rights*, Articles 22-27 (social, economic & cultural rights). Expand on basic rights, as expressions of ***Dignity*** of the person!
 - ✓ Art.22: right to social security & realization for each person the economic. Social and cultural rights indispensable for his/her dignity and free development of his personality.
 - ✓ Art. 23: right to work, to choose job freely and *to a just and favourable working conditions* and to protect against unemployment. + Rights about pay and forming associations/unions.
 - ✓ Art. 24: right to rest
 - ✓ Art. 25: right to a standard of living, adequate for health and wellbeing of worker & family.
 - ✓ Art. 26 & 27: rights regarding education and participation in cultural activities.

Pope Francis: *Let us dream a new Economics*

A new Future of *Economy* eg. Economy of Pope Francis

- Within existing models (Political, Real, Impure, Robin Crusoe, Civil etc.)
 - *A Fraternal-Sororal Economy of*
 - Communion / Relational,
 - Inclusion
 - Equality
 - Respectful
 - Dignifying
 - Participatory (via. *subsidiarity*)

*To fashion economic institutions and economic ethics to achieve **Integral Human Development**, a sustainable material wellbeing for all, an inter-generational wellbeing.*

Barriers to Integral Development: Failures of cooperation, Insufficiency of Trust, Failures of Inclusion & Social justice, Privatization of State power, Monopolization of specialized information

Hence: A fraternal-sororal Economy The Economy of Pope Francis!

The talk about a *Fraternal-Sororal Economy*

Economy: *oikos* + *nomos*



made up of offsprings (*participants **and not** parts*):
adelphos / *adelphē* (brothers & sisters: from same mother /womb) &
principle of relationality. Persons as *Relational Beings, Equal in Dignity!*

Nomos = administration/management of resources of household for who belong/ are members of household (from same womb).

Biological womb, analogously: womb of events of history: national, international, cultural etc.

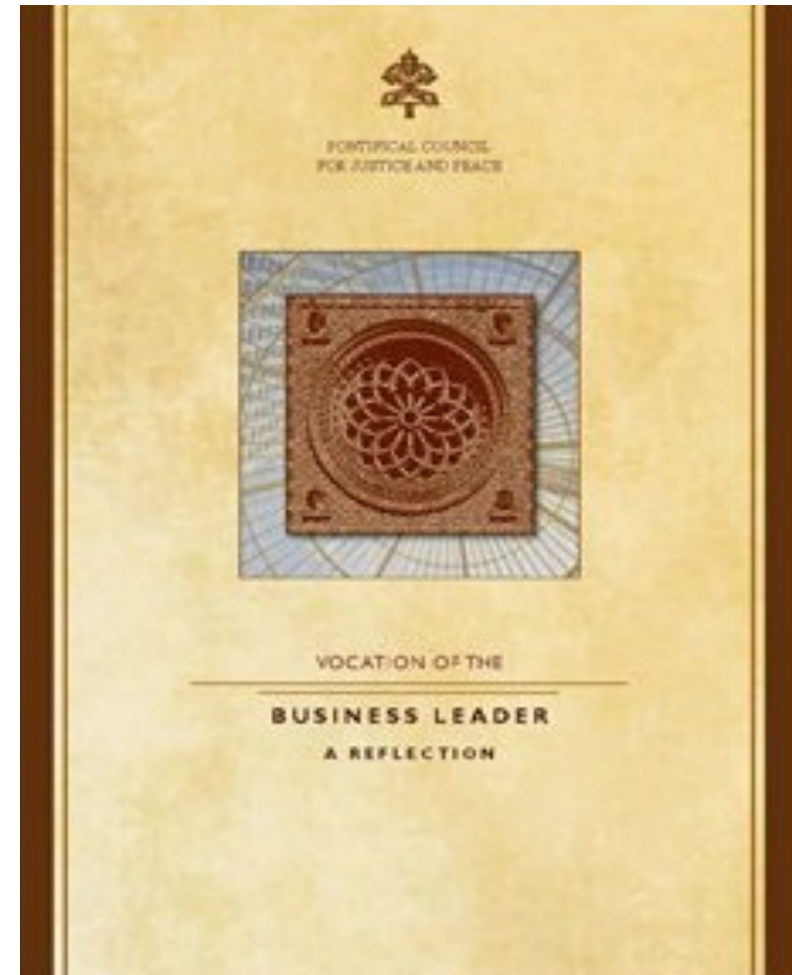
Nomos & Work (human activity)

- *Nomos: human work/activity in the management of resources for the **Common good***
- ✓ *Sense of the **common good** : dignity, rights, integral human development.*
- ✓ ***Common good & the universal destination of goods of earth***
- ✓ ***Common good**, in fraternity, is task of all in the *oikos**
- ✓ *Pursuit of **common good** in *oikos* is via **solidarity***
- ✓ *In the pursuit of **common good**, **solidarity** calls for **subsidiarity**.*

VOCATION OF THE BUSINESS LEADER

“VOCATION”

- a calling
- co-creation





"MENSURAM BONAM"

Faith-Based Measures
for Catholic Investors:
A Starting Point and Call to Action



SUBSIDIARITY VIA *INVESTMENT*

- *Solidarity* expresses relational obligation to care for common interests
- It is firm and persevering commitment to the *common good*.
- It is rooted in the *essential fraternity of the human family*.

- Therefore: Persons deserve the dignity of being protagonists for their growth and wellbeing & contribution to the *common good*.
- *Subsidiarity*: commitment to enable persons to exercise influence and choice within the social decision-making closet to their own lived reality.
- *Subsidiarity* fulfils *freedom's* basic norm of agency.
- *Subsidiarity* is imperative, because every person /family /intermediate group has something original to offer to community.

Subsidiarity thru. *Investment/Investing* (investire)

- Every investment is indispensable.
- It creates the material capacities for the needed change.
- Each & every investment gives tangible expression to **values** that either contributes to the future or forsake it; help fashion a desired /desirable future.
- Investments, therefore, are not **value –free**. “*Purchasing is always a moral – not simply an economic act*” (Pope Francis). For, the true norm for progress, & for the economy, is the *flourishing of humanness: the transition from less human conditions to truly human conditions* (Pope Paul VI)
- Investments may not aim at *absolute maximization* (cf. certain economic positions) of returns/profit, but the **optimal**, that includes profit, values: ecological, inter-generational etc.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS
ATTENTION

Basis of *RIGHTS*, as expressions of Dignity & *common good*

- Rights, as expressions of Dignity are based on:
 - 1) Sense of *dignity* (dignitas) one's worth by reason of one's being, what he/she is ... creature of God, redeemed by Christ: *what God has given to us and done for us*. This sense of *dignity* undergirds economic and social rights. *Rights are about respecting human dignity* understood in this sense.
 - 2) Sense of *Natural law*: *Natural law* distinguishes between human life *before* and *after the Fall*.

Before the "*Fall*" Human activity shared in "goodness" of God's creation, seeking the *common good*.

After the "*Fall*"human activity tends to pursue *individual & personal good*; though *common good* remains the aspiration/vocation of our nature & is accessible to all.
- *** *For the Church, we need grace of God to return to making **common good** the primary goal of our work/activities.*

The Actual level & Contexts of *nomos* (human activity)

- On the level of our *Fallen Nature*, there is at work another *natural law*.
- It is the law of our historical existence: on this level the exercise of the *nomos* (human activity, eg. economics) has become complex: the subject of several studies, theories, and ramified character of the *nomos*, (activity) eg. technology, AI, investment, Banking, property rights. Intellectual property, taxation systems, role and place of Governments and legislators etc.
- For this level of actual pursuit of the *nomos*, the first level of *natural law* describes a vocation that arises from our original nature and character and provides a reminder and an ethical guidance for the very many actuals of exercising human labour (*nomos*).

Common good & Subsidiarity in the regime
of the *Fall*: a. Natural Law & Ethics.