

SERVANT LEADER

Pope Benedict XVI's new encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, continues a long and powerful tradition of popes articulating biblical values and Catholic moral principles which should guide and measure economic and social life. Benedict XVI follows in the footsteps of Pope Leo XIII and subsequent popes. In 1891, Pope Leo wrote *Rerum Novarum* (Of New Things), which placed the dignity of work and the rights of workers at the center of Catholic teaching.

For more than a century, popes have courageously called Catholics and all people of good will to protect human life and dignity, to defend the poor and the vulnerable, and to pursue greater justice and peace. Now, amidst an international economic crisis, Pope Benedict assesses and responds to the "new things" in the global economy that



have enormous moral and human consequences. He calls for solidarity at a time of increasing divisions, summons individuals to greater ethical responsibility amidst economic irresponsibility and places a priority on the poorest and weakest in the human family, whose lives and dignity are threatened by widespread deprivation and

desperation.

Benedict XVI suggests that the economic crisis is, at its core, a moral crisis. He observes that we have lost our way by ignoring or violating the "truth" about the dignity of every human person, about responsibility for one another, about the common good, about the moral foundations of economic life. He offers the "truth" as taught by the Church through the centuries as an antidote to the moral relativism, dishonesty, greed, and unrestrained economic opportunism that helped bring about the economic crisis.

Pope Benedict affirms and extends Catholic social teaching by applying longstanding principles to new economic forces in a globalized world. He highlights that we are one human family, not simply competing nations or regions. He intensifies John Paul II's call for solidarity to be globalized.

The Pope builds on the message of his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), and his clear insistence that concern for those who are poor is at the heart of the Church's mission, along with proclaiming the Gospel and celebrating the sacraments. He insists that how the poor and vulnerable are faring in the economic crisis is an essential moral measure of the global economy.

The Holy Father consistently connects personal and structural ethics, insisting that both individuals and institutions need to act in economic life with greater attention to moral principles and ethical criteria. He calls for personal conversion and ethical action by individuals as a foundation for structural steps toward a more just economy. At the same time, the Pope also calls for sweeping reforms to address the injustices that leave so many without hope and a decent life across the globe seeing the need for both new attitudes and new structures to promote both solidarity and accountability within the global economy.

Pope Benedict has consistently placed environmental ethics at the center of his social teaching. He makes clear connections between respect for the Creator and care for creation, between human and natural ecology, and between care for the planet and care for the poorest people on the planet. Environmental themes are addressed more thoroughly than in any other encyclical.

The Pope emphasizes once again the unity of the Church's teaching and witness for human life and dignity: protecting the unborn and the poor, defending the family from both economic and moral pressures.

The new encyclical is filled with nuance and complexity. Anyone who tries to reduce the encyclical to a bumper-sticker endorsement of their own economic or political preferences will inevitably distort its complete message.

Pope Benedict adds a powerful new chapter to the Church's prophetic tradition of applying the wisdom of the Scriptures and Catholic moral principles to the "new things" of our own time a situation. He brings much needed ethical analysis of how we got into this global economic crisis, and will offer an essential moral framework for how we can move forward as one human family.

There is much in the encyclical that affirms and challenges us as we carry out the Church's social mission in the midst of this economic crisis. The Holy Father offers words of encouragement: "As we contemplate the vast amount of work to be done, we are sustained by our faith that God is present alongside those who come together in his name to work for justice ... God's love calls us to move beyond the limited and the ephemeral, it gives us the courage to continue seeking and working for the benefit of all"

ROME WITH CATHEDRAL CHOIR



Reservations can still be made to join our Cathedral Choir on their pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Pompei, Amalfi, and Vatican City.

Tour dates are November 5 to November 15. Cost is \$3,395.00 + \$400 in

departure and fuel surcharges. Contact Choir Director Rex Rallanka at 916-444-3070 or email at rrallanka@cathedralsacramento.org for further information. Any parishioner may join this tour.



STEWARDSHIP GIFT TO OUR PARISH

Our collection last week was \$9,753.56. Thank you. However, our goal is \$14,000 per week so we are far short of this. To achieve this, I pray that parishioners make a generous sacrifice in thankfulness for God's goodness to us - an attitude of gratitude! All we have comes from God so our donations are a way to give back to God some of what we have been given. This is a joyful action as we build up our parish for Christ. I ask you to pray that each of us can do our best even in these challenging times. I will do all I can to be frugal, cut expenses to the minimum, develop a plan for debt reduction and do only needed projects. All that is needed is we each do our part. I know God will bless our giving and return it one hundred fold.

FREE LAURA LING AND EUNA LEE

This is an important social justice matter. All of us should help get these ladies free. Please do what you can to help. You may contact their family and friends at www.LauraandEuna.com

CATHOLIC BREAKFAST CLUB JULY 24

The next Catholic Breakfast Club meeting is at the Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane at 12 Noon. Note the new time and location. The Friday July 24 meeting features a talk by Reverend Joseph C. Howard Jr, Professor of Bioethics and Moral Theology. He is also a recipient of the John Paul II Fellowship. Uniquely qualified to lead us through the rocky ground of stem cell research, death with dignity, reproductive choice, and cloning, he will help us to understand these threats to human dignity and how we can present the Catholic point of view with love and charity. Reserve on line at www.catholicbreakfastclub.org. Advance registration \$25, at the door \$30.

NFP AWARENESS WEEK

This week (July 19-25) is celebrated in the United States as Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week. Unlike the Rhythm (or Calendar) method of old, NFP methods are solidly based on scientific research and provide an effective, reliable and natural way to achieve or avoid pregnancy morally within God's plan for marriage end sexuality. NFP reflects the dignity of the human person within the context of marriage and can deeply enrich the bond between spouses. To learn more about NFP, please visit <http://diocese-sacramento.org/nfp>.

FRANCIS HOUSE

We really need your help at this time of unprecedented increases in demand for our vital services. This year we are seeing over 25% more individuals than last year. We are exceptionally low on many of the bathroom toiletries that we normally include in our hygiene kits. We are providing around 400 hygiene kits monthly to our clients. The most needed hygiene items are: *SHAMPOO *CONDITIONER *TOOTHBRUSHES *DISPOSABLE RAZORS *DEODORANT *LOTION *FEMININE HYGIENE. We will be thankful for any size, but we suggest that travel sizes are the most appropriate for our client's needs. We could also embrace more volunteers to help as resource counselors. We have open spots on many of our shifts weekdays (9:15 am-11:30 am & 12:45pm - 3:00pm). Contact Forrest Reed at Francis House (916) 443-2646

CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

MON 7/18/2009 ST. APOLLINARIS, BISHOP, MARTYR

12:10 p.m.: Socorro Vasquez, S.I.

5:10 p.m.: Sherie Usi +

TUES 7/19/2009 ST. LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI

12:10 p.m.: Robert Hinshaw +

5:10 p.m.: Rita Guiney, S.I.

WED 7/20/2009 ST. MARY MAGDALENE

12:10 pm: Rita Guiney, S.I.

5:10 p.m.: Agapita Omas +

THUR 7/21/2009 ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

12:10 p.m.: Cristoforo Vera +

5:10 p.m.: Agapita Omas +

FRI 7/22/2009 ST. SHARBEL MAKHLUF

12:10 pm: Agapita Omas +

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM

**TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES 391-1760 OR 833-1948,
OR E-MAIL BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET**

CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY

AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES

GIFT SHOP HOURS

MON-FRI 11AM-2PM (CLOSED SAT) SUN 10AM-2PM