



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
* Knights of Malta *

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Chancellor's Update

CARITAS IN VERITATE

Before any comments are presented, one should reread our September through November Updates of 2003, particularly October, which are on our website given in the footer. As observed in earlier Updates, **due to Original Sin, there is no perfect economic system.** The best system appears to be the free enterprise system employed by individuals in a Capitalist setting. This system leaves man free to develop his God given talents to the best of his abilities with the least interference even though he is always surrounded by the **Seven Capital Sins.**

Pope Benedict in his latest encyclical, **Caritas in Veritate**, presented a broad general outline in moral tones for the people of the world to consider as he reminded all that this was not his forte when he said: **The Church does not have technical solutions to offer¹⁰ and does not claim to interfere in any way in the politics of States.¹¹** (Footnotes cover Vatican II and papal documents and Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 13: loc. cit., 263-264).

While headlines in early July read “Pope calls for global government”, liberals, statist and socialists of all stripes rejoiced, conservatives tried to explain away or charged the newspapers with spinning the Pope’s words. The following relevant passage is sufficient for anyone to judge whether the papers were unreasonable in their interpretation.

“In the face of the unrelenting growth of global interdependence, there is a strongly felt need, even in the midst of a global recession, for a reform of the *United Nations Organization*, and likewise of **economic institutions and international finance**, so that the concept of the family of nations can acquire real teeth. One also senses the urgent need to find innovative ways of implementing the principle of the **responsibility to protect and of giving poorer nations an effective voice in shared decision-making. This seems necessary in order to arrive at a political, juridical and economic order which can increase and give direction to international cooperation for the development of all peoples in solidarity. To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority**, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago. Such an authority would need to be regulated by law, to observe consistently the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, to seek to establish the common good, and **to make a commitment to securing authentic integral human development inspired by the values of charity in truth.** Furthermore, such an authority would need to be universally recognized and to be vested with the effective power to ensure security for all, regard for justice, and respect for rights. Obviously it would have to have the authority to ensure compliance with its decisions from all parties, and also with the coordinated measures adopted in various international forums. Without this, despite the great progress accomplished in various sectors, international law would risk being conditioned by the balance of power among the strongest nations. The integral development of peoples and international cooperation require the establishment of a greater degree of international ordering, marked by subsidiarity, for the management of globalization. They also require the construction of a social order that at last conforms to the moral order, to the interconnection between moral and social spheres, and to the link between politics and the economic and civil spheres, as envisaged by the Charter of the United Nations. [Par. 67 emphases in original; internal endnotes removed]”

However, if one reads all the footnotes and realizes that the encyclical was issued on the exact date the G 8 nations were meeting in Italy, one might get the idea that there is another

level at which the Pope was aiming, i.e., reference cf. Jn 8: 32, “...and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered him, “We are the children of Abraham, and we have never yet been slaves to anyone. How sayest thou, ‘You shall be free’?” Jesus answered them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. But the slave does not abide in the house forever; the son abides there forever. If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are the children of Abraham; but you seek to kill me because my word takes no hold among you. I speak what I have seen with the Father; and you do what you have seen with your father.” They answered and said to him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you are the children of Abraham, do the works of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill me, one who has spoken the truth to you which I have heard from God. That is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works of your father.” They therefore said to him, “We have not been born of fornication; we have one Father, God.” Jesus therefore said to them, “If God were your Father, you would surely love me. For from God I came forth and have come; for neither have I come of myself, but he sent me. Why do you not understand my speech? Because you cannot listen to my word. **The father from whom you are is the devil, and the desires of your father it is your will to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has not stood in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie he speaks from his very nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.** But because I speak the truth you do not believe me. Which of you can convict me of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe me? He who is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear is that you are not of God.””

Was the pope telling the leaders of the G 8 nations and the bankers of the world who were there, that they are liars and not of God? What have the popes been telling the world leaders when they met over the past forty years?

The problem the world is facing has been caused by huge federal budget deficits, a mountain of state, city and un-funded private debt and lack of gold reserves. Statists will try to solve the problem by higher taxes, public boondoggles like TARP and printing fiat money. “A flight from paper cannot ultimately be controlled by this Trilateral establishment. Their recourse will be to adopt Hitlerian or Stalinist measures: Soviet economy- if they can.” Trilaterals Over Washington by Anthony C. Sutton and Patrick, 1978 p 154.

The solution is to know the truth and be free! As a starting point, the leaders of the world must allow their citizens to have stable currencies, fixed exchange rates and the ability to convert their paper money into gold, abolish the Federal Reserve, aim for a steady value of gold in dollars, repeal all current legal tender laws and achieve gold convertibility by defining the US dollar as a fixed weight of gold. Abolish the FDIC so depositors know their money is loaned out and the banks must have fiduciary responsibility and avoid risky loans. As Von Mises noted: only a gold standard could ensure that the purchasing power of money would be kept separate from ‘ambitions’ of governments, political parties and pressure groups. A gold standard would not subject citizens to the tyranny of a money elite.

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Jerusalem 1048-1291, Cyprus 1291-1310, Rhodes 1311-1523, Malta 1530-1798, Russia 1798-1907, U.S.A. 1908-

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