

THE MACAU RICCI INSTITUTE'S ONLINE SYMPOSIUM FOR 2020

Solidarity as a key for a better economical and social justice

The Macau Diocese
and other local organizations contribution

Topics to be reflected; Questions to be answered

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(3) SELF EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR AND SUBSIDIARITY

The encyclical letter "Laudato si" that was published in May 2015 not only mentions the way human being should be integrated in Nature, but also how it should live in Society and deal with economy and financial issues.

"Laudato si" was not only written for catholic people but for all Humanity: "Now, faced as we are with global environmental deterioration, I wish to address every person living on this planet. In my Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I wrote to all the members of the Church with the aim of encouraging ongoing missionary renewal. In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home" (Laudato si, n.^o 3).

However, Pope Francis follows the Social Doctrine of the Church, as all catholic institutions do. In this context, there are two reflections that could be done:

1– How the Macau Diocese pastoral work contributes to improve the Macau people's solidarity? Besides all pastoral centers the Macau Catholic Media has an important rule to spread and promote the catholic values. "Men and women are still capable of intervening positively. For all our limitations, gestures of generosity, solidarity and care cannot but well up within us, since we were made for love" (Laudato si, n.^o 58).

2– Create a "network" is essential nowadays to improve the quality and efficiency of social activities. How Macau Diocese, Caritas Macau and other institutions like Lions Clubs International and Rotary International works individually or together to improve the skills and the activities quality of their

employees and volunteers? "Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds" (Laudato si, n.^o 219).

Some answers for the previous questions can be find in Macau Media Archives and in several documents signed by the refereed institutions. Some actions prove that private institutions give a big contribution to improve the quality of life of lower classes. Most of these institutions provide health care and psychologist assistance, as well as schooling, legal advice, housing, etc.

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND PRUDENCE

In the Chapter 4 of "Laudato si" entitled "Politics and Economy in Dialogue for Human Fulfilment" Pope Francis refers that "Politics must not be subject to the economy, nor should the economy be subject to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technocracy" (Laudato si, n.^o 189).

Since the Macau Portuguese Administration one of the biggest concerns is the diversification of the Macau Economy. A few years ago the Macau Government starts to support more efficiently the MICE and Cultural sectors, some of them related to Environment (ex: MIECF – Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition).

In the encyclical letter Pope Francis asks if "is it realistic to hope that those who are obsessed with maximizing profits will stop to reflect on the environmental damage which they will leave behind for future generations" (Laudato si, n.^o 189).

The big question is to know if the Macau Government will keep supporting low profitable sectors in order to protect thousands of jobs.

(5) SOCIAL WORK AND DIGNITY OF EACH PERSON

Besides pastoral work, Macau Diocese has a large experience in Social Affairs. Nowadays the Macau Diocese rules several social institutions that held projects related to elders and youngers.

How the Macau Diocese, Caritas Macau, Macau Red Cross and other institutions like ANIMA and Social Welfare Bureau work together to assist all the people in need, specially in difficult periods? "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize,

encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded" (*Laudato si*, n.^o 13).