

CONTINUED...

Pope

Continued from page 1

er task of justice to be clear-sighted and vigilant in ensuring the balance between rights and duties, in fostering an equitable sharing of burdens and benefits. Justice makes whole, it does not destroy; it leads to reconciliation, not to revenge. Upon examination, at its deepest level it is rooted in love, which finds its most significant expression in mercy. Therefore justice, if separated from merciful love, becomes cold and cutting.

Justice is an active and life-giving virtue: It defends and promotes the inestimable dignity of every human person and is concerned for the common good insofar as it is the guardian of relations between individuals and peoples. ... From the first moment of life, each human being exists in relationship to others, in such a way that the good of the individual and the good of society go hand in hand. ...

Respect for human rights

2. The human person is by nature endowed with universal, inviolable and inalienable rights. ...

In recent centuries these human rights have been formulated in declarations of principles and binding legal instruments. In the history of peoples and nations in search of justice and freedom, the proclamation of these rights is remembered with rightful pride, also because it was often experienced as a turning point after patent violations of the dignity of single individuals and whole peoples.

Respect for human rights not only involves their protection in law. It must include all the other aspects which stem from the notion of human dignity, the very basis of rights. In this regard attention to education assumes great relevance. It is likewise important to attend to the promotion of human rights; a task which follows from love of the human person as such. In the context of promoting human rights, further efforts must be made to protect the rights of the family, which is "the natural and basic unit of society." (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Solidarity

3. The vast geopolitical changes which have taken place since 1989 have been accompanied by veritable revolutions in the

social and economic fields. The globalization of the economy and of finance is now a reality, and we are realizing more and more clearly the effects of the rapid progress related to information technologies. ... For a more equitable society and a more stable peace in a world on the way of globalization, it is an urgent task of the international organizations to help promote a sense of responsibility for the common good. But to achieve this we must never lose sight of the human person, who must be at the center of every social project. ... The challenge, in short, is to ensure a globalization in solidarity, a globalization without marginalization. ...

The burden of debt

4. Nations and whole regions of the world, on account of their fragile financial or economic potential, risk being excluded from an economy which is becoming globalized. Others have greater resources, but unfortunately cannot take advantage of them for various reasons: unrest, internal conflicts, a lack of adequate structures, environmental degradation, widespread corruption, criminality and other reasons as well. ... Special aid must be forthcoming so that countries which are unable to enter the market successfully on their own strength alone can in fact overcome their present situation of disadvantage. ...

My thoughts go here to one of the greatest difficulties which the poorer nations have to face today ... the heavy burden of external debt, which compromises the economies of whole peoples and hinders their social and political progress. ...

The debt question is part of a vaster problem: that of the persistence of poverty, sometimes even extreme, and the emergence of new inequalities which are accompanying the globalization process. ... we can no longer tolerate a world in which there live side by side the immensely rich and the miserably poor, the have-nots deprived even of essentials and people who thoughtlessly waste what others so desperately need. ...

Respect for rule of law

5. ... Situations of extreme poverty, wherever they are found, constitute a prime injustice. Eliminating them ought to be a priority for everyone, at the national as well as the international level.

Nor can we pass over in silence the evil of corruption which is undermining the

social and political development of so many peoples. It is a growing phenomenon insidiously infiltrating many sectors of society, mocking the law and ignoring the rules of justice and of truth. ...

A grave responsibility in this battle falls on people in public life. Theirs is the duty to work tirelessly for the equitable application of the law and for transparency in all acts of public administration. ...

The fraudulent use of public monies penalizes above all the poor, who are the first to be deprived of the basic services essential for personal development. And when corruption creeps into the administration of justice, it is again the poor who pay the heaviest price: delays, inefficiencies, the lack of an adequate defense. ...

Offensive injustices

6. There are other forms of injustice which put peace at risk. Here I wish to mention two. First, not having the possibility of fair access to credit. The poor are often obliged to remain outside the normal financial system or to place themselves in the hands of unscrupulous money lenders who charge exorbitant rates of interest. The end result is the aggravation of an already precarious situation. For this reason it is everyone's duty to work to ensure that the poor have access to credit on equitable terms and at affordable interest rates. ...

...increasing violence against women and against children of both sexes ... is one of the most widespread violations of human rights, and tragically it has even become a terror tactic: women taken hostage, children barbarously slaughtered. To this must be added the violence of forced prostitution and child pornography, and the exploitation of children in the workplace in conditions of veritable slavery. Practical steps are needed to try to stop the spread of these forms of violence. ...

A task for all

7. Peace for all of us comes from the justice of each of us. No one is excused from a task of such importance for the whole of humanity. ...

I appeal above all to you, heads of states and leaders of nations, the principal guardians of the rule of law in your respective countries. Certainly this is not an easy task for you to fulfill, but it constitutes a primary obligation. ...

Furthermore, building peace in justice

calls for the cooperation of every sector of society, each in its own area of influence and in harmony with other groups within the community. In particular I encourage you, educators engaged at every level in training and educating the younger generation: Form them in moral and civic values, instill in them a lively sense of rights and duties, beginning with the experience of the school community itself. Educate in justice in order to educate in peace. ...

In the formative process, the family is indispensable. The family is the appropriate environment for the human formation of the younger generation. ... The family is the first school of living, and the influence received inside the family is decisive for the future development of the individual. ...

Sharing

8. The Jubilee of the Year 2000 is fast approaching, a time which for believers is devoted in a special way to God, the Lord of history, a reminder to all of the radical dependence of the creature on the Creator. But in the biblical tradition it was also a time for freeing slaves, for returning land to its rightful owner, for forgiving debts, thus restoring the conditions of equality willed by God among all the members of the people. ...

The distinctive mark of the Christian, today more than ever, must be love for the poor, the weak, the suffering. Living out this demanding commitment requires a total reversal of the alleged values which make people seek only their own good: power, pleasure, the unscrupulous accumulation of wealth. Yes, it is precisely to this radical conversion that Christ's disciples are called. ...

A society of genuine solidarity can be built only if the well-off, in helping the poor, do not stop at giving from what they do not need. Moreover, offering material things is not enough: What is needed is a spirit of sharing so that we consider it an honor to be able to devote our care and attention to the needs of our brothers and sisters in difficulty. Christians, the followers of other religions and numberless men and women of good will today feel called to a simple lifestyle as a condition for making the just sharing of the fruits of God's creation a reality. ... The heart of the Gospel message is Christ, who is everyone's peace and reconciliation. May his countenance shine upon the path of humanity as it prepares to cross the threshold of the third millennium!

Are Your Investments Working Hard Enough?

Get More. Earn More

Go with experience you can trust...

For 21 positive years... GEN-CAP investors have done better for 5 Great Reasons:

- Regular monthly checks
- No fees or commissions
- Low minimum initial investment ... \$5,000.00
- High yields and capital growth
- Highest total returns



Make a fresh start...RIGHT NOW! 8.51% annually.



Call 1-800-507-4393

Gen-See Capital Corporation

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS!

Attie's will once again run our

School Uniform Sale

during no tax week Jan 17th through Jan 23rd, 1998



YOU'LL PAY

NO SALES TAX

PLUS DEDUCT AN ADDITIONAL

10% OFF

YOUR TOTAL UNIFORM PURCHASE!

AND, WE WILL HOLD OUR 1997 PRICES UNTIL AFTER THE SALE!

THIS IS A TOTAL SAVINGS OF OVER 20%

Buy now for next year. We have a large inventory and all special orders apply!

You may also order by phone. Have your credit card handy.

Sorry, does not apply to previous purchases or layaways.

Attie's Young Fashions • 1906 Monroe Ave. • Rochester, N.Y. 14618

(716) 242-8640 • fax (716) 242-9621