

WELCOME ADDRESS TO HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF “CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE” FOUNDATION  
DOMINGO SUGRANYES BICKEL

20 May 2017

Most Holy Father,

**Le estamos extraordinariamente agradecidos por haber querido recibir una vez más a la Fundación Centesimus Annus pro Pontifice.**

A year ago Your Holiness suggested a path we could follow towards *"generating new models of economic progress more clearly directed to the universal common good, inclusion and integral development, the creation of labour and investment in human resources"*.

A project that we received as our guiding principle, although it is beyond our forces! Keeping in mind the possibilities of the real economy, we are examining closely three issues: the role of entrepreneurship in the fight against poverty; the possibility of dignified work for everyone in the context of the digital technology revolution; new alliances that make changes possible as much in behaviour as in institutions.

One could ask oneself whether these debates are useful. Firstly, can change and the spread of ideas be used for a change in behaviour? Our simple contribution is to promote in the Church and in various business and professional environments, a movement of opinion favourable to the desire for reform.

Nevertheless, our debates also have practical implications. Here are two examples that I know at first hand:

- In Spain, a group of Foundation members has launched a campaign to restore vitality to professional training – a training that has been devalued in many areas, although it is a valid response both to the drama of youth unemployment and to the re-transformation of workers who are unemployed for technological or economic reasons.
- In London, we are promoting a network of solidary action, *The Voluntary Solidarity Fund* which we would also like to develop elsewhere: it involves setting up solidarity initiatives, both in economic form and in voluntary services, in dioceses and parishes by following projects that need long-term support. This is how we try to assist those who find themselves in difficult situations, helping them to emerge from these precarious situations through their own efforts. We would be grateful for the moral support of Your Holiness for this initiative.

Each one of us must personally adhere to the commitment to dialogue, integration, to give practical responses. Your words and your paternal blessing, Holy Father, give us new momentum to continue on the path you outlined.