

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

#### **“THE GOOD SOCIETY AND THE FUTURE OF JOBS”**

#### **Can solidarity and fraternity be part of business decisions?**

May 8 – 10, 2014

New Synod Hall, Vatican City

Sugranyes Bickel: *“what we need is a collective change of priorities”*

“The good society and the future of jobs: can solidarity and fraternity be part of business decisions?” This is the theme of the annual international conference promoted by the *Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice* Foundation, to be held from May 8 to 10, 2014 in the New Synod Hall, Vatican City (above the Paul VI Hall).

Mr. Domingo Sugranyes Bickel, Chairman of the *Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice* Foundation, explains: “Last year Pope Francis, in his address to the Foundation’s members, invited them to reflect on the actual space that solidarity can have in economic life. We have chosen to make this invitation the guideline of this year’s meeting”.

The starting point of this reflection, animated by academics, businessmen and Church representatives from diverse countries, will be a global vision of today’s economic trends, with special focus on those related to the issue of jobs creation. The analysis will then focus on a series of issues of primary importance, such as the growing differences between high skilled jobs on one side and low skilled jobs on the other; contraction of the middle section, i.e. white collar and traditional blue collar jobs; transition from the old perception and measure of inequality based on the comparison developed/underdeveloped countries to a new epoch when inequalities are measured within each individual country.

“Within this framework – continues Mr. Sugranyes – we shall look into the possible effects of solidarity, or lack of solidarity, on the economy and on society, considering the issue in both theoretical and practical terms. Debating, for example, themes such as the battle against “crime economy” or the implementation of effective social programs. Finally we shall analyze how businessmen look at solidarity and fraternity in their own activity.”

All these issues will be debated by work groups. Their findings will then be the object of a general discussion at the final plenary session of the conference.

“As business executives – Mr. Sugranyes adds – we know that our organizations are made up of men and women, not of ‘theoretical mechanical entities’ such as the so called ‘homo oeconomicus’ (the invention of some classic theories elevated to ideology). We work with people, i.e. with human beings capable of generosity and gratuitousness. It is not enough that the business be ethically responsible and participative. Today’s problems go beyond the macro-economic level and a collective change of priorities is urgently needed. To the pursuit of this change the Social Doctrine of the Church can bring new ideas, free from ideological limitations and vested interests. Pope Francis invites us to confront this major challenge and we try to follow his rapid step.

The Foundation’s schedule for 2014 includes other international events: a seminar in Dublin on financial reform and the common good and a meeting in New York devoted to the urgent issue of poverty and the responsibility of protecting the weaker populations. The Foundation intends to draft a paper with their conclusions and a series of recommendations, to be presented to the Holy Father and circulated to universities, economic organizations and research centers.

Press Office: Costantino Coros – cell 393/9396689, e-mail [coroscosta@virgilio.it](mailto:coroscosta@virgilio.it)

*Journalists are kindly requested to communicate their accreditation not only to the Press Office of the Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice Foundation but also to the Press Office of the Holy See at ..... Indicating ..... by .....*

*Thanks.*

*Logistics: the New Synod Hall is located above the Paul VI Hall accessed through the ..... Gate*

## PROGRAM

### **Thursday, May 8, 2014**

#### **15.45 Welcome and introduction**

His Eminence Domenico Cardinal Calcagno, President of APSA

Domingo Sugranyes Bickel, Chairman of the *Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice* Foundation

#### **16.00 Session 1: “A geo-economic view of the world: growth, inequalities and jobs”**

Session chaired by Prof. Alberto Quadrio Curzio, Vice President of the “Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei” with a foreword of Prof. Giovanni Marseguerra, Università Cattolica, Milan

First key-note speech: Mr. Branko Milanovic, World Bank (USA)

Two discussants: Prof. Alfredo Pastor, IESE (Barcelona) and Prof. Francis T. Lui, Science and Technology University, Hong Kong

#### **17.00 Group Work, 1<sup>st</sup> session**

##### **Group A (English – Italian – Spanish simultaneous translation)**

Chair: Dr. Thomas Rusche

Rapporteur: Attilio Tranquilli

##### **Group B (English)**

Chair: Robert A. Nalewajek  
Rapporteur: Eleonora Bonacossa

18.30 **End of Session**

### **Friday, May 9, 2014**

09.00 **Session 2: Solidarity and fraternity: utopia or fundamental social dimension?**

Session chaired by Prof. Joseph FX Zahra

Second key-note speech: Dr. Adrian Pabst, University of Kent (UK)

Two discussants: Prof. Antonio Maria Costa, former Executive Director of UNODC (UN Office of Drugs and Crime), and Fr. Alvarez de los Mozos, S.J., "Social Justice and Ecology" Secretary, Company of Jesus

10.00 **Break**

10.30 **Session 3: Solidarity and Gift in Business Decisions**

Session chaired by Prof. Andrew Abela (CUA, Washington DC)

Interviews of five business executives: Renate Pilz(D), Robert Leblanc (F), José Vicente Roca (E), Stephen Giovanni and Sean Fieler (USA)

12.00 **Group work 2<sup>nd</sup> session**

13.00 **Break**

14.30 **Group work 3<sup>rd</sup> session**

16.00 **Final session: Moving towards a good society**

Session chaired by Domingo Sugranyes Bickel, Chairman of the *Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice* Foundation

Group reports: Thomas Rusche, Attilio Tranquilli, Robert A. Nalewajek, Eleonora Bonacossa

Framework for follow-up: Prof. Fabio Pammolli, IMT Lucca (Italy)

Conclusions: Mr. Lawrence Gonzi, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta

18.00 **End**

### **Saturday, May 10, 2014**

09.00 Reading from the Holy Scripture and meditation led by H.E. the Most Rev. Claudio Maria Celli, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication and International Assistant of the *Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice* Foundation

10.00 Holy Mass celebrated by His Eminence Domenico Cardinal Calcagno

12.00 Private audience with His Holiness Pope Francis