



'Economy and Society' International Award Ceremony – Fourth edition

29 May 2019

Palazzo della Cancelleria

Welcome address by Chairperson Professor Anna Maria Tarantola

Dear Friends,

The Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation is very happy to present the 2019 International Economy and Society Award to Professor Mary L. Hirschfeld for her book

"Aquinas and the Market. Toward a human economy"

This biennial Award was established in 2013 to mark the Foundation's twentieth anniversary. In these six years we have rewarded books in different languages: the first year, two books of equal merit received the award; one in Spanish, *Ciudadanía, migraciones y religión* by Julio Luis Martínez SJ and one in Italian, *L'economia del bene comune* by Stefano Zamagni. In the second edition, a French work *Finance, un regard chrétien* by Pierre de Lauzun, received the award and in the third edition, the volume in German *Prinzip Nachhaltigkeit* by Markus Vogt was the award winner. This year, the Foundation is pleased to award a work in English.

I would also like to remind you that the award-winning books deal with a variety of highly relevant and topical issues closely connected to the social doctrine of the Church: immigration, finance, ecology, the economy of the common good, etc.

Since 2015 we have also set up an award for journalists, which this year, however, the Jury decided not to assign.

The Award is one of the Foundation's initiatives to give visibility to its statutory objective which is to study, develop and disseminate the Catholic Social Teaching. As you are aware, we also pursue this goal through the organisation of conferences, conventions, consultations, meetings, the publication of books that report on the main interventions made at our events and Social Doctrine courses for lay people and priests.

The content of this year's award-winning book will be illustrated by Cardinal Reinhard Marx and I have just one comment to make: the book deals with a topic on which the Foundation sets great store: the inability of the prevailing economic model - characterized

by the "obsessive" use of mathematical formulas and unconditional trust in the free market - to achieve economic development with a human face which focuses on well-being, personal happiness and respect for the Creation.

In his address to the Foundation on 13 May, 2016, Pope Francis encouraged us to "contribute to 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".

This is the core of the Foundation's activities in recent years and today's award-winning book offers us important insights for reflection and evaluation.

The current situation poses multiple challenges that need to be effectively addressed globally with the commitment of business, politics, civil society, institutions. If we all engage in concerted and unanimous action, we can pursue sustainable, lasting and equitable development. The heart of the challenges posed by the pursuit of integral ecology - as indicated by Pope Francis in the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* - is the sustainable use of resources and this requires a new model of production and consumption to pursue the well-being of people in a context of global equity. The circular economy approach can be the basis for a new growth model.

On 6, 7 and 8 June, we will hold our Convention which has two important moments: the 6 June General Assembly of members and the 7 June International Conference. The overall theme is "The Social Doctrine of the Church from its origins to the digital age, how to live *Laudato Si'*" while the International Conference, entitled "*Laudato Si'*: the conversion of an ideal into reality" will be specifically dedicated to analysing our present position on the path indicated to us by Pope Francis towards integral ecology (*look*), evaluate the problems encountered, the causes of setbacks and failed achievements (*judge*) and identify possible positive actions (*act*).

Prof. Hirschfeld is one of the speakers.

The Convention will end on 8 June with an address from the Cardinal Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin and the Audience with the Holy Father.

I would like to invite all of you to participate in the International Conference. The programme will be distributed at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Thanks to the contribution of our members and personalities of great experience and expertise, we hope to be in a position to identify some activities that can be positively implemented to accelerate the moral path towards environmental, economic and social ecology. The Holy Father constantly reminds us of the urgent need for action. Time is running out.

I conclude my speech by sincerely thanking His Eminence Cardinal Reinhard Marx, and Father Michael Konrad, and all the Jury Members for their invaluable work. The whole Foundation is grateful to them for the commitment, professionalism and dedication that they reserve to this Award.

Now I leave the floor to His Eminence Cardinal Marx. Thank you so much.