

Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice

---

***The challenges  
of Ethical issues in today's  
business and society***

# *Centesimus Annus*: why did communism collapse?

---

- ❑ Not for reasons of economic efficiency, but because it did not respect the truth about the human person
  - ❑ The basic mistake was not economic but cultural
  - ❑ 'The spiritual void brought about by atheism, which deprived younger generations of a sense of direction' (24)
-

# The free market

---

- ❑ CA praised the free market as 'the most efficient instrument for utilising resources and effectively respond to needs' (34)
  - ❑ It is an important instrument for attaining important objectives of justice
  - ❑ Profit has a 'legitimate role... an indication that a business is functioning well' (35).
  - ❑ Yet more basic criterion is whether it is at the service of the human person and community
-

# *Centesimus Annus* on capitalism 1

---

If by "capitalism" is meant an economic system which

- recognizes the fundamental and positive role of business, the market, private property
  - the resulting responsibility for the means of production
  - free human creativity in the economic sector
  - **then the answer is certainly in the affirmative**
-

## *Centesimus Annus* on capitalism 2

---

But if by "capitalism" is meant a system in which freedom in the economic sector

- is not circumscribed *within a strong juridical framework*

- which places it *at the service of human freedom in its totality*, and

- which sees it as a particular aspect of that freedom, *the core of which is ethical and religious*

**then the reply is certainly negative**

---

# *Work is the key to the social question*

---

- The subjective aspect of work comes before the objective: the person who works is more important
  - *Work comes before capital*
-

# *The People's Social Vision*

---

'The proposed social vision rests on the premise that the individual comes first, and incentives should be targeted to alleviate personal needs and aspirations. In so doing, an improvement in the wellbeing of individuals and society in general offers fertile ground for the economy to prosper, which in turn yields further benefits at personal level, depending on individual skills, effort and motivation directed at the market place.' (p. 4-5)

---

# *A Listening Heart*

---

- As he assumed the mantle of office, the young King Solomon was invited to make a request. How would it be if we, the lawmakers of today, were invited to make a request? What would we ask for? I think that, even today, there is ultimately nothing else we could wish for but a listening heart – the capacity to discern between good and evil, and thus to establish true law, to serve justice and peace. (*Benedict XVI*)
-