

ADDRESS TO THE HOLY FATHER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE FOUNDATION

DOMINGO SUGRANYES BICKEL

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Holy Father,

With the many images of destruction, of refugees and displaced persons before our eyes and in our hearts, we understand and feel the fear of many who are afraid of losing their present fragile state of well-being while others are yearning for a better life. If you agree Holy Father, we would like the Foundation's small contribution to your charitable works to be used, if possible, to help refugee children without families.

Moreover, the work we have done within the economic sphere, has convinced us of the inherent potential of the market economy. This is neither ideological adherence nor self-praise but facts: stimulating and promoting business activities can open the way for the poor to become "dignified agents of their own destiny" to quote an expression used by Your Holiness at the United Nations General Assembly.

Nevertheless, free initiative is not enough. We must open up the business horizon to the new social realities and organize the transition towards the new economy which has followed in the wake of the technological revolution so that it benefits as many as possible. This involves adaptation and fertile inventiveness.

We can also do practical things to help this newly created affluence to reach as many people as possible. Among Catholics and all Christians we can promote more ambitious solidarity initiatives and can rely on the help of many. This means going further and aiming for a wider dimension without detriment to the many existing charitable initiatives.

Today, many in the economic and financial spheres are demanding an ethical restructuring. This is our challenge: to bring the Church's rich and profound reflections to business leaders of all religious convictions and even to non believers. It should go hand in hand with the moral reflection and form a "new coalition" for the common good.

We are touched by the words of Your Holiness. We are grateful to you for receiving and listening to us and we ask for your blessing.