



FONDAZIONE CENTESIMUS ANNUS PRO PONTIFICE

United Kingdom Chapter
2020 - 2025 Development Strategy

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UK Strategy for Development



1. Prayer

The Philosophy behind it

- Prayer is at the heart of everything that we do in the Centesimus Annus Foundation. Without prayer, our actions cannot bear fruit.
- On multiple occasions, the Holy Father has asked Centesimus Annus to pray, and we must adhere to this request :
 - “The Christian community – the parish, the diocese, the associations – is the place in which the entrepreneur, but also the politician, the professional, the union worker, draws the strength to nourish his commitments and encounters with his brothers...[I encourage the various experts to] “move ahead with faith, *dedicating proper time to prayer*, because also the layperson, also the entrepreneur needs to pray and pray often when the challenges are most difficult!” – Pope Francis, 2014 Address to the Centesimus Annus Foundation
- All UK Members are asked to commit to a life of regular prayer, and encouraged to pray, on a regular basis, the proposed prayer for the UK Chapter.

The concrete proposal and action plan

- 1) Suggested prayer for all UK Centesimus Annus members
- 2) Appoint an Ecclesiastical Counsellor
 - A high-profile UK cleric has accepted the role, at the invitation of Lord Brennan
 - We await the nihil obstat from Rome before disclosing the name
- 3) Organise an annual 1-day retreat for UK Centesimus Annus Members & Friends
 - Half a day retreat preached by the UK Ecclesiastical Counsellor
 - +
 - Half a day of volunteer service together in a VSF-supported charity or other appropriate Catholic charity

Jesus is the Word made Flesh.
Jesus is the Bread of Life.
Jesus is the Victim offered for our sins on the Cross.
Jesus is the Sacrifice at Holy Mass for the sins of the world and mine.
Jesus is the Life – to be loved.
Jesus is the Joy – to be shared.
Jesus is the Hungry – to be fed.
Jesus is the Thirsty – to be satiated.
Jesus is the Naked – to be clothed.
Jesus is the Homeless – to be taken in.
Jesus is the Sick – to be healed.
Jesus is the Lonely – to be loved.
Jesus is the Unwanted – to be wanted.
Jesus is the Leper – to wash his wounds.
Jesus is the Beggar – to give him a smile.
Jesus is the Drunkard – to listen to him.
Jesus is the Little One and the Unborn – to embrace him.
Jesus is the Drug Addict – to befriend him.
Jesus is the Prostitute – to remove from danger.
Jesus is the Prisoner – to be visited.
Jesus is the Old – to be served.
Jesus is my Everything. Amen.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

2. Formation

The Philosophy behind it

- Centesimus Annus Members need to be fully fluent with Catholic Social Teaching in order to be effective Ambassadors of it, and to live it credibly
- Formation of the mind, from the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church, is a critically important compliment to formation of the soul and the heart, as Pope Benedict has described, calling all three combined the mission of the Church :
 - “Only ongoing formation of hearts and minds can truly create intelligibility and participation that is something more than external activity, but rather the entry of the person, of my being, into the communion of the Church and thus into communion with Christ.” – Pope Benedict XVI 14.II.2013
- Centesimus Annus Foundation was set up to “help promote the study and diffusion of the social doctrine of the Catholic Church” so formation is at its core

The concrete proposal and action plan

- 1) Define themes for study and discussion in monthly gatherings, e.g.:
 - Laudato Si, 5 Years on...
 - Covid-19 trade-offs and policy responses : An assessment from the lens of Catholic Social Teaching
 - Pope Francis’ proposals for a Universal Basic Income
 - Bridging the gap between the “elites” and the rest, and the emergence of new political systems
 - Technocracy, digital and artificial intelligence : dangers & opportunities
- 2) Define a Syllabus of readings to guide our discussions in monthly meetings & structure meetings around key themes
 - UK Coordinator putting together a Syllabus for study and discussion, in collaboration with leading UK Catholic academics
- 3) Define an annual schedule of monthly meetings with topics and occasional guest speakers to be defined by UK Coordinator
 - Clear themes, with readings and questions, and related policy debates, will ensure our meetings are relevant, timely, actionable and coherent
- 4) Ensure concrete outputs from working group deliberations throughout the year
 - Position papers for public Advocacy
 - Educational papers for formational Outreach
 - Conference papers for CAPPF Annual Conference

3. Outreach

The Philosophy behind it

- It is a formally stated purpose of the Centesimus Annus Foundation to “promote informed knowledge of the social teachings of the Church and of the activity of the Holy See”
- Therefore, it is incumbent upon the UK Chapter to ensure that deliberations are not only introspective, but designed to ensure proactive engagement with external Catholic and non-Catholic communities, across all spheres of the political economy and all strata of society

The concrete proposal and action plan

- 1) **Cultivate formal and informal ties with : Businesses ; Schools/ universities ; Charities ; Clergy**
 - Appoint an Ambassador for outreach to the business community : Marco Gubitosi as Vice Chairman for UK
 - Establish closer ties with UK ecclesial authorities and seminaries, whilst retaining our independence
 - Develop ties with universities like Twickenham and Durham, which have established centres for Catholic Social Teaching
 - Find Ambassadors in schools who can help to convey the truth, beauty and richness of Catholic Social Teaching
 - Work more closely with UK Catholic charities to help educate and form their staff on CST, as well as to learn from their putting it into practice
- 2) **Organise outreach & educational events**
 - Work with Catholic schools to establish a once-per-year Catholic Social Teaching Awareness Day, where Centesimus Annus Members can volunteer to share their stories
 - Organise an annual, one-day seminar for business, political and other leaders on a theme related to Catholic Social Teaching and Ethical Business
- 3) **Develop partnerships with similar associations**
 - A number of initiatives similar to Centesimus Annus already exist in the UK, and UK Coordinator will work to establish closer ties to them, e.g. catholicsocialteaching.org.uk and Together For the Common Good
- 4) **Build international bridges within CAPPF**
 - UK Coordinator already has strong ties to the French, Belgian and USA CAPPF and will work with them to share best practices and exchange views, papers and initiatives

4. Advocacy

The Philosophy behind it

- Centesimus Annus Members are also called to fight for social justice in the public sphere and in society more generally, through prayer, witness and action
- It is also a stated goal of the CAPPF to “promote initiatives aimed at expanding the Church’s role in all sectors of contemporary society”, since our great Founder urged us to have :
 - “a firm and persevering determination to commit [ourselves] to the common good” – Pope John Paul II, Centesimus Annus

The concrete proposal and action plan

- 1) Foster formal and informal ties to the political world
 - Appoint an Ambassador for outreach to the political community : Dan Lord Brennan QC, Chair of the UK Chapter
- 2) Encourage public debate on major policy issues linked to CST
 - Political leaders to be invited to a once per annum seminar of the UK Chapter for Business & Political leaders to discuss key policy issues in light of Catholic Social Teaching
 - Political and Business Ambassadors will work closely with UK Coordinator to ensure UK Chapter is more visible in UK business & political circles
- 3) Suggest policy initiatives in line with CST
 - Work with think-tanks to publish joint occasional position papers or, at a minimum, to support position papers that are very much in line with Catholic Social Thought
 - Cultivate a network of political figures (MPs, MEPs, Civil Service, local officials) who believe in the value of Catholic Social Teaching, espouse it, and seek to promote it within their spheres of influence by example and by word

5. Growth

The Philosophy behind it

- Growth for its own sake is not an objective we want to pursue
- Nevertheless, there remains a lot for Centesimus Annus to do, in respect of helping others discover the richness of Catholic Social Teaching, so a growth agenda must be seen through the lens of evangelisation and the core of Centesimus Annus' mission

The concrete proposal and action plan

1) Grow the membership

- Historically, we have been a relatively small group, with occasional larger meetings
- Select membership growth will help achieve more sustainable financial footing, regularity and the production of quality outputs
- A targeted list of about 25 potential new members has already been drawn up

2) Establish sound financial footing

- Regular / timely paying of membership dues is important and will be tracked
- UK will aim to achieve sustainable & self-financing events, e.g. by managing event costs and occasionally charging (reasonable) entry fees

3) Implement a digital strategy

- UK Coordinator will curate a Twitter feed, with links to key texts from Catholic Social Teaching and messages from the Pope, various Vatican Dicasteries and local Bishops
- UK Coordinator to act in coordination with related initiatives, like VSF, or the Catholic Social Action Network, Together for the Common Good, catholicsocialteaching.org.uk, and university centres to help spread the word, and at a minimum, to establish links towards the Centesimus Annus parent website