

Nam Bonum Populi

I call to all my brothers and sisters bound by the blood of creation that unites us all under humanity, to those of all nations and all faiths of this Earth, to be brought together to, symbiotically, unify to resolve an issue that will otherwise haunt the peace of mankind, that we, with surplus material wealth in the western world or even at the centre of those in dire poverty may have the heart to learn to open our eyes and understand what is truly at stake amongst the mass starvation, fear, conflict and devastation for those living without the substantial needs in many countries who are too helpless, too broken and too afraid to be able to provide sufficiently for its people.

As the Church, as humans, it is our hereditary duty, our obligation, to help those in suffering, stewards in solidarity for the common good and justice of those who have nothing else to seek but a beacon of hope for a better life and the basic human dignity, a shining light amongst the darkness of their circumstances to guide them to the vibrant beauty of the goodness of life, people like us to right our wrongs, mend our mistakes, reach out to their wailing cries for help and support them amongst their plight. Long have we ignored the suffering of those on the other side of the world, living off their labour and hard work while they are crushed by our ever-growing, unknowingly selfish demand, slaving away while we embrace the luxury they serve, the crops, the materials, the food, the water, the resources, so many things we must be grateful for being blessed with the ease to retrieve because of them, so many things that they desire to gain freely, yet have to toil endlessly to even attain a morsel, always living in torment, their only hope being that their work and their faith will bring them a better turn in life. No life should ever be this way. No life should be deprived of the sanctity and dignity of such a divine gift, that they are forced to live in such a precarious state, never knowing whether they will wake up to live another day, whether they will live to feed their family, whether their children will ever go to school. No life like this should ever be travestied in this way, should ever be allowed, if we truly had the humanity in our hearts, if we are truly people of God, to go unnoticed, unchanged when we can see that they remain so impoverished and helpless, that, too, partly at our fault. And if they should, what does that make us? Superior? Sanctimonious? Or is it that they are inhuman? Is it that we have still not rid our world of those unethical, disgusting attitudes that plagued the minds of thousands, crippling the lives of millions in bloodshed, slavery, conflict and conquest, those intoxicating desires for power that corrupted the humane virtues of which we were bestowed, that we have no shame for the destruction we inflict and devastate all those sacred lives?

Across the world, more than 2 billion people live in extreme poverty, born or subjugated by others' cruelty into this way of life, those 2 billion beautiful, potent and worthy lives, all that unappreciated, unwitnessed skill and talent and creativity, that we limit to industry and service, that could mean a world's worth of difference, change and revolution to all our lives. Just imagine how much one person could be destined to do, how much they can determine the course of time, how one of those people out there, in this big, wide world, out of the 7 billion people who walk this earth and breathe this air like anyone ordinary could do something extraordinary, how one person in the world, maybe one who is currently unable to, could impact you and everyone you know, perhaps even finding a cure for cancer, or end a war, how, if we were willing to help them by making small changes, small sacrifices, could revolutionise humanity. If you were to know ahead, to have the knowledge, that one person could save the future, could save you, could save all that you love and hold dear, how willing would you be to make it happen, to save them? What would you do? Who would you help? You would, anyone would, give whatever you can, do whatever you can do to treasure protect this precious opportunity. You would try, no matter what, knowing that it will come to benefit. But, of course, we cannot know that, as humans, we cannot fathom the path of the future, we do not have the knowledge of God; which is why we must do our all to save them all; we must do what we can do to help make a change and hope that perhaps one day it will return the favour- because, if we do not, it is bound to have consequences on them and us.

Syria- a country of 18 million people, about 80% of which is in poverty, driving conflict, hate and discord, creation causing destruction, God's children murdering God's children, thousands of lives caught in the cross-fire, having to flee across a dangerous journey to destinations where they are often unwanted burdens and turned away, the beauty of nature tarnished by the debris and pollution of war that threatens the rest of the world, causing disaster that further impoverishes and devastates an entire multitude of lives. India- a country of 1.7 billion people desperate to rise to a state where they can provide for their people, working, developing and growing but at the cost of lethal competition that drives wars with their neighbours and destroys the Earth. Nigeria- a country of more than 109 million people with the greatest proportion of poverty with nearly 9 million or more people unable to work, unable to provide for their families, forced to live in some of the most unstable environments which they densely populate, generating tonnes of plastic, CO₂ and pollution. And then, there is us, in Europe, with a surplus of about 204 billion € worth of food, resources and money, enough to feed thousands of

lives, support that we could provide, humanitarian and financial aid that could change so many people, perhaps avoid the consequence of destruction as you collaborate, the human race together as one, towards resolving some of the most pressing concerns, a mutually - positive society that could help a greener, brighter future.

I believe that by God's will, we as his children, may learn and grow to nurture your world and each other, a utopia in which we learn the benefits it could have on all of us if we follow God's teachings to restore Human Dignity to those we have deprived this simple but divine right from, to gain in solidarity as one great force to resolve our mistakes and work , starting at a small sacrifice of some of our time and money, towards a new, better world.

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