

CATHOLIC

Q & A

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Why all the poverty and starvation in the world?

In the beginning when God created the world, all of nature was perfectly ordered. Everything in the natural world was created for the benefit and service of man. In turn, Adam and Eve were in total control of their passions and their intellect and will were perfectly ordered to God. Truly they lived in an enchanted world where although a branch could fall from a tree and strike them dead, it would not have happened because God designed man to live in paradise on earth.

Things changed when man disobeyed God. Death entered the universe and the perfect harmony that existed in nature was damaged. Natural calamities such as earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, etc. do occur and have an affect on man. Therefore natural calamities can be a cause of starvation and poverty.

Certainly there is not a lack of resources, technology or space available to provide for decent human living conditions for the entire world. As a matter of fact, everyone in the world could live in the states of Arizona and New Mexico with the same population density as New York City (26,000 people per square mile). Another interesting fact is that the entire world population could live in the United States with all the necessary industries, homes, parks, roads, etc., on about 15 percent of the land. The remaining land would be more than sufficient to grow enough food to feed all 6 billion people.

Political and economic systems are oftentimes very interrelated and dependent on financial systems that provide investment capital and energy systems that provide fuel to transport goods and operate equipment. To control interest rates, lending capacity and energy resources, is to control a large portion of the political and economic viability of the Western free market system.

Pope Pius XI identified the control of these systems in 1931 when he wrote the Encyclical letter called *Quadragesimo Anno*, which dealt with the social order of society. In his Encyclical, the Holy Father states:

105.It is obvious that not only is wealth concentrated in our times but an immense power

and despotic economic dictatorship is consolidated in the hands of a few, who often are not owners but only the trustees and managing directors of invested funds which they administer according to their own arbitrary will and pleasure.

106. This dictatorship is being most forcibly exercised by those who, since they hold the money and completely control it, control credit also and rule the lending of money. Hence they regulate the flow, so to speak, of the life-blood whereby the entire economic system lives, and have so firmly in their grasp the soul, as it were, of economic life that no one can breathe against their will.

107. This concentration of power and might.... is the fruit that the unlimited freedom of struggle among competitors has of its own nature produced, and which only lets the strongest survive.

109.... unbridled ambition for power has likewise succeeded greed for gain; all economic life has become tragically hard, inexorable, and cruel.

One need only to review historical facts to validate what Pope Pius XI stated in 1931. After the World War II the developing countries around the world began to establish themselves economically. In 1973 a war began in the Middle East and oil prices increased by 400% plunging these fragile economies into a severe recession. They had no choice but to borrow money from international sources to sustain their economies. The 1980's ushered in the huge increase in interest rates charged by banks to supposedly dampen inflation. Debt payments were made just to cover the interest on the loans; no additional credit was made available to invest in infrastructure thereby making sure that these developing countries stayed poor.

Once the problem of poverty and starvation was exacerbated by financial machinations, then a solution to the problem was proposed. Instead of providing funds for development and canceling foreign debt obligations, the decision was made to aggressively promote population control measures in these poor countries. Billions of U. S. tax dollars have gone and continue to go to support abortion, sterilization and child sex education programs as means to carry out this agenda. Pope John Paul II has aptly described this perversion as "The Culture of Death."

U.S. National Security Policy has justified population control by claiming that it would: 1) prevent developing nations from becoming political powerful; 2) maintain U.S. access to these countries' natural resources; 3) protect U. S. investments in these countries; 4) limit the amount of young people who are more apt to challenge imperialism.

Sources: Population Handbook / Human Life International
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