GOOD POLITICS IS AT THE SERVICE OF PEACE

The message of the Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace 2019 keeps in mind that good politics serve the peace. It is not a new idea as John XXIII claimed:

“Among the very serious obligations incumbent upon men of high principles, We must include the task of establishing new relationships in human society, under the mastery and guidance of truth, justice, charity and freedom—relations between individual citizens, between citizens and their respective States, between States, and finally between individuals, families, intermediate associations and States on the one hand, and the world community on the other. There is surely no one who will not consider this a most exalted task, for it is one which is able to bring about true peace in accordance with divinely established order.” (John XXIII, Pacem in Terris n. 163).

In his looks at the world, Pope Francis observes the tragedies and violence that always devastate it. In his message “Urbi et Orbi” of 25th of December, the Pope refers to the conflict between Israeli people and Palestinians, to the martyred Syria, to Yemen which is exhausted because of the war between Israel and Palestine, to Africa, “where millions of people are refugees or displaced and need humanitarian assistance and food security”, to Korea, to Venezuela, to Nicaragua and Ukraine. The Pope, in his message, denounces the corruption, “the misappropriation of public resources, the exploitation of individuals, the denial of rights, the flouting of community rules, dishonest gain, the justification of power by force or the arbitrary appeal to raison d’état and the refusal to relinquish power. To which we can add xenophobia, racism, lack of concern for the natural environment, the plundering of natural resources for the sake of quick profit and contempt for those forced into exile.” On the other hand, he also denounces the “attitudes of rejection or forms of nationalism that call into question the fraternity of which our globalized world has such great need.”

In our way to peace we need:

- Peace within ourselves, rejecting the intransigence, the anger, the impatience and – as Saint Francis de Sales advised – “having a bit of sweetness for myself” to offer “a bit of sweetness to others”;
- Peace with the other: the family, friend, foreigner, poor, the one who suffers… Daring to the meeting and listening to the message within themselves;
- Peace with the creation, rediscovering the greatness of God and the responsibility that corresponds to each of us as habitants, citizens and architects of the world.

Peace is in the center of the mission of the Christians. It is absolutely reprehensible to look for power to use it for abusing and injustices. Politics cannot be an instrument of oppression and tyranny. Politics should be under the service of the peace and human rights.

For the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights we can claim with the Cardinal Turkson that:

“Despite the solemn proclamations and the expectations aroused by them, new violations of human dignity have been added, while old wounds have resurfaced and others, such as the case of slavery, have taken on different faces. One notices increasingly, moreover, that while poverties and social injustices grow within Nations, the differences between States not rarely continue to be addressed through the use of force — even of armed force — with inevitable and nefarious consequences for populations that have to pay the painful price. In various areas of the world, heinous armed conflicts persist, fuelled by dark interests, with their procession of unspeakable violations of the right to life and to physical integrity, as well as of other human rights, such as that of access to medical care, education, work, and lodging.

Therefore, it is necessary that the fundamental right to peace and that of integral development be recognized and adequately ensured.” [Discourse of the Perfect of the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development for the International Conference on Human Rights in the Pontifical Gregorian University, 10.12.201].

It is the duty of politics to fight for the common good. Politics are an eminent way of caring. With the Pope Francis we can claim:

“Political addresses that tend to blame every evil on migrants and to deprive the poor of hope are unacceptable. Rather, there is a need to reaffirm that peace is based on respect for each person, whatever his or her background, on respect for the law and the common good, on respect for the environment entrusted to our care and for the richness of the moral tradition inherited from past generations”.

Our world needs architects of peace. It needs to liberate new relational, intellectual, cultural and spiritual energies in favor of the justice and the peace. The truthful dialogue between all of us and the incentive of the talented youth and vocation is needed. The members of the General Commission of Justice and Peace are committed to it.

FCO. JAVIER ALONSO
President, GCJP
Establishing a Social Market Economy: a key task for the European Parliament

The next European Parliament will legislate along with the Council of Ministers about the new proposals of the European Commission. The Treaty on European Union will require the establishment of a social market economy and asks their institutions to promote the economic, social and territorial cohesion. The values promoted in Article 2 of the Treaty orientate the members of the next European Parliament in order to modify and correct some unwanted effects in the single market. Due to the bilateral agreements and the current accession process, the European countries outside the European Union will also be affected by the dysfunction of the single market.

Four priorities for the next European Parliament

Justice and Peace Europe have identified four problems that demonstrate some aspect in which the single market is not properly working, if we consider the values and principles that built the European Union (EU), as well as the ones that the Social Teachings of the Church. The next European Parliament should firmly address them. They are not the only topics that we can find, but they illustrate our concern as they constitute a violation of these principles:

1. **Social justice** as the current unfair distribution of wealth and opportunities, but also because of poverty and social exclusion inside the single market’s territory and among the regions. It drives to negative and vital consequences in the demographic, cultural and social level.

2. **Healthy nature** as the high and unacceptable level of food waste show the primacy of a production and consumption model opposite to the force of moderation and that is harmful for the environment.

The depopulation of several parts of the European Union and the impoverishment are negative side effects of the single market. The social market economy and the principle of territorial cohesion need a redesign of a new and complete European policy of territorial development that can build and achieve better national policies that already exist instead of weakening them.

3. **Global peace** as the many arms exportations to war-torn countries and armed conflict areas are contrary to the agreement between the Member States.

The EU has become the second major arms exporter in the world. In 2017, all the 28 EU countries have summed up to the 24% of the global arms exportations. In 1998, to avoid conflicts and increase international security, the EU established a Code of Conduct about the arms exportations. The Member States have violated this norm in broadcasting licenses of exportations to arms enterprises. Justice and Peace Europe is hoping for the next European Parliament that they support the Common Position of the EU in the arms exportation, and to promote an effective system of sanctions in the case of violation of the norms.

4. **Respect for human rights** as some European enterprises, especially the bigger in the single market, are working globally in a way that can violate human rights.

The multinational enterprises in the EU should be more aware of the respect of human rights in all their activities. Justice and Peace Europe asks the next European Parliament to continue with the promotion of the active participation of the European Union with the United Nations on the development of an legally binding instrument that regulates the activities of the multinationals towards the respect of human rights.

**Social inequality, food waste, arms exports, multinationals violate rights.**

JUSTICE AND PEACE EUROPE
Integration of immigrants in Sant Just Desvern

Sant Just Desvern is a census with 17,000 habitants, and as the General Management of the Protection of the Children of the Generalitat de Catalonia (DGAIA) has embraced 17 youths from different countries in Africa: Chad, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire... The age of them is around 16 to 18 years old.

Many entities, through some actions, have started up a project to embrace this people, and among them we can find Justiciai Pau Sant Just, which has joined them carrying out two activities. In the one hand, every week they prepare a tour in the mountains of Collserola, where they learn to watch the environment and the architecture, differentiate the different native species, recognize the crops and they share some songs and have lunch. The other activity is related to Catalan learning.

It is important to highlight that, since the year 2015, around 5,000 minors arrived to Catalonia. In 2019 is estimated that 5,500 will arrive, which is more than the 1,900 that arrived in 2018.

The question we ask ourselves in Sant Just is what resources and strategies are needed to adopt in order to keep the minors here once they reach the legal age (18). Currently, the University of Barcelona, The Club of Football Barcelona the Hotel Sant Just – which has let them stay there with no fees – the DGAIA and Justiciai Pau in this area are working together to find a program of training to be a football instructor and sports of two years so they can do something and complete their stay. We have a difficulty on this that we are working on as these minors are undocumented.

For the adult migrants that reside in the territory but do not have a working contract, there is an insertion plan: the ACOL program of the Generalitat of Catalonia. This program subsidizes working contracts in order to facilitate the permit for temporary residence for exceptional circumstances of social stability. The contract lasts for 12 months.

We check every day how the number of migrants that cannot get the working contract cannot have the identity document increases. In general, it is very difficult that the enterprises facilitate this kind of contracts. The immediate consequence is that all the undocumented people is increasing exponentially.

In our case, the third sector enterprise, Solidança (from Sant Just Desvern), has contracted three people that will be able to regularize their situation, under the plan ACOL. Currently, there are 75 people working in this insertion project which is financed by the Generalitat.

JESÚS CASTRO
Justice and Peace Sant Just Desvern (Barcelona)

Hosting of migrants and refugees in the Diocese of Madrid

Madrid is a very big diocese and it is not the space to recollect the initiatives in which, in different ways, projects of hosting, protection, promotion and integration of migrant people are carried out. It is to thank the diocese and the civil society that they are involved in this problem of human mobility that is so present in the Church and in the society of Madrid. It is very important to keep on working in the web to coordinate and unify so many good initiatives.

a) Background: In September 2015, the archbishop of Madrid constituted the Table for the Hospitality, which is a space of coordination and encouragement of initiatives and organizations of the diocese of Madrid in favor of the displaced people. In the Letter of presentation of the Table (“I was a stranger and you welcomed me”), Mr. Carlos Osoro claimed that: “It is no time for complains, it is time for cooperation and getting the best out of ourselves before the suffering of others.”

b) Present reality: In these three years and a half, the Table has done its job of being that space of coordination and encouragement, which is the purpose of its creation. That has been reinforced since Summer of last year with the arrival of immigrants and refugees that did not have hosting in the emergency devices and were in the street.

The output of that commitment has carried out the first space of emergency hosting the 27th of June in the Parish of Ntra. Sra. De las Angustias, which offered 10 sub-Saharan immigrants dinner, a place to sleep and breakfast. Every night, a family of the Parish cooked and served dinner and prepared the breakfast, and another two volunteers in a web that was created quickly were with them at night. This scheme of hosting has been repeated since then, with some variants in the Parish of Ntra. Sra. De Europa, Santa Irene and San Ramón and in the Centers of Social Pastoral of Fontarrón, of San Carlos Borromeo and in the Center of Familiar Pastoral of the Vicaría IV. In some cases, the hosted people have been sub-Saharan men and on other cases, families from different countries. Nowadays, the Parish of Santa Irene is hosting again in the same way as the Parish of Ntra. Sra. de las Angustias, which hosted for the second time in November and the second half of December.

A substantial and different innovation of hosting happened in August in the Parish of Ntra. Sra. De la Paz. 13 immigrants have been hosted in the Parish House that opened its doors for them. As the Priest said: “In the same way as doors have been opened for all of us, we have become what we are and we are where we are”. They are a big family and the space has stopped being a resource of emergency and has become a shelter house where immigrants are not alone in their migratory project in the short-term burden. In fact, in these past months, some have gone to other European countries and some others have started in the administration, being substituted by others.

Conclusion: it is a rewarding experience for the Parishes, Pastoral Centers and volunteers that have participated or are doing it and I encourage more Parishes and communities to do it.

RUFINO GARCÍA ANTÓN
Episcopal Delegate of Migration in the Diocese of Madrid
It is the title of a guide published from the Church in Germany for people that are responsible of financing catholic institutions. The orientation of the social action towards success in human life finds its expression in the protection of the people, in the defense of the justice and peace and in the conservation of the Creation.

When we look for ethic criteria, it is not only about finding answers to the social topic, but also to the ecologic question that is vital for the circumstances in which people live today and tomorrow. The ecological and social dimensions create a framework for a sustainable configuration of the world in the basis of the Christian Faith. This makes us consider any way of externalization, it means that the process of moving the costs of the economic activities to a third party, to the environment or the future generations. If we look at the financial investments, in ethic terms, it is crucial to ask ourselves if this inversion contributes in a positive way to a global context. In a practical way, for example, the protection and promotion of human rights, the fulfillment of the working and environmental international norms and the respectful and economical use of the environmental resources are specific norms to evaluate the sustainability of an investment.

Sustainable and ethical investments

As in the past years, the 8th of February -which is the same day as the festivity of Sta. Josefina Baquita- we have celebrated this day under the slogan of “Together against human trafficking”. The prayer vigil with the “Ecclesiastical group against human trafficking” has taken place in a parish in Madrid with more participation. The number of diocese that do initiatives that day have also increased.

The new pastoral orientations for this day help us know and ask ourselves about this serious case of slavery that traps and breaks many people in the world: 1) See more clearly the reasons behind the presence and increase in many places of human trafficking in this century, is it just because of its rentability? 2) Understand the functioning of this terrible business that is hidden and invisible although it works everywhere as a big corruption and human slavery. Why, even if States have the obligation of protect their citizens and residents against the catching and slavery do not do anything to prosecute and punish? 3) How can we do something here and now, increasing the long-term compromise? What can we do to eradicate human trafficking?

We still are in the campaign in contact with the REPAM that gets us closer to the reality of many countries in Latin America and gives them voice. The past 24 of January, the activist Lily Calderón from Yurimaguas in Peru, along with Sonia Olea de Caritas in Spain have presented a report of violation of human rights in the Amazonia. In this way, it is true the dream of the Pope: “In this sense, it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. When they remain on their land, they themselves care for it best. Nevertheless, in various parts of the world, pressure is being put on them to abandon their homelands to make room for agricultural or mining projects which are undertaken without regard for the degradation of nature and culture” (LS 146). The report talks about the extractive enterprises that occupy territories without thinking on the rights of the ancestral populations being destroyed in many cases or subject to servitude, unless they have moved to other safer places. In addition to this violation of human rights, the enterprises with big projects of hydrocarbons and mines occupy spaces, pollute the environment and make irreversible damage in the culture and social peace of the people affected.

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General Commission for Justice and Peace is a member of ICAN

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) counts on its General Commission (CGJP) as one of its more than 500 associated organizations from the 103-member countries. ICAN has been the main agent in the civil society that has promoted the elaboration of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, that the United Nations has opened for their signature on September the 12th of 2017 and that will enter into force once 50 nations have ratified it. ICAN has received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. It is a big and inclusive entity whose main goal is the mobilization of the civil society and that every organization that supports the same objectives can join it if they do not use violence or defends it. In 2017, the CGJP has created a working group for the nuclear disarmament in which the International Conference about the topic in the Vatican has participated, driven by their compromise of Pope Francis with the nuclear disarmament. The fact that CGJP is an ICAN member means that they want to contribute to create a web and raise awareness inside and outside of the Church in peace and nuclear disarmament.

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