



**PAX ROMANA CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**

A Division of

PAX ROMANA
CATHOLIC MOVEMENT FOR INTELLECTUAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS USA
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MISSION & CORE VALUES

The Center's mission is to promote internationally among intellectuals, professionals, and university students the deep study of Catholic Social Teaching as a profound ethical wisdom tradition. The Center promotes the study of the tradition's philosophical-theological grounding, its socio-historical development, its dialogue with all academic disciplines, and its contemporary significance for the new global civilization now emerging.

The contemporary significance of CST includes its responses to the ethical challenges of the new global society at every level from human life in the womb to the solidarity of the entire human family in its full range of ecological, societal, and spiritual communion.

In this study, the Center stresses international institutions of democratic global governance through a reformed United Nations, guidance of global society by the consistent ethic of life and human rights, global human solidarity across civilizations and cultures and especially with the poor, and a foundational planetary ecological sustainability.

In pursuing its mission, the Center emphasizes the following core values.

- **POSTMODERN CULTURE OF LIFE.** Following CST, the Center rejects as intellectually bankrupt the mechanistic-emotive philosophies and ideologies that arose from the modern European Enlightenment in both their rationalist and utilitarian variants. It sees these philosophies and ideologies as producing an ecological, sociological, and spiritual "Culture of Death." The Center also rejects the relativistic and even nihilistic late modern philosophy wrongly labeled "postmodernism." The Center explores the authentically postmodern philosophical cosmology arising from new insights within the contemporary natural sciences – a vision that is holistic, developmental, and mystical, and that provides the cultural foundation for a humanistically and spiritually oriented ecological consciousness in support of a comprehensive "Culture of Life."
- **MULTICULTURAL GLOBAL CIVILIZATION.** The Center supports the postmodern birth of a multicultural global civilization seeking ecological, societal, and spiritual regeneration. The promotion of a new global

STRUCTURE

The Center is sponsored by PAX ROMANA/CATHOLIC MOVEMENT FOR INTELLECTUAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS (CMICA-USA), in cooperation with the Florida Council of Catholic Scholarship (FCCS).

- **LOCATION.** The Center is hosted by Saint Thomas University in Miami Gardens, Florida. The Center promotes the study of Catholic Social-Ecological Teaching by faculty and students of St. Thomas University and of all universities across the world.
- **GOVERNING BOARD.** The Board of Directors of PAX ROMANA / CMICA-USA governs the Center.
- **COMMITTEE OF GUIDANCE.** The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of PAX ROMANA / CMICA-USA provides operational guidance for the Center..
- **DIRECTOR.** The Center is led by an Executive Director, Dr. Joe Holland, who serves as a volunteer without financial remuneration. Mr. César Baldelomar, a Global Leadership Student at St. Thomas University, serves as the Center's Research Coordinator.
- **COUNCIL OF SCHOLARS.** Projects of the Center are conducted by members of the Council of Scholars. This Council is made up of volunteers who pursue studies in various dimensions of CST. Scholars are appointed by the Executive Director for renewable terms of one year.



COUNCIL OF SCHOLARS

DR. ELISABETH FERRERO **ECOLOGICAL ETHICS**

Ph.D. in Languages & Literature from Rutgers University. Professor of Humanities at Saint Thomas University. Official Italian Translator of the Earth Charter. Author of important commentary on the Earth Charter. Published Poet in English and Italian.

DR. JOE HOLLAND **SOCIAL ETHICS**

Ph.D. in Theology from University of Chicago. Professor of Philosophy & Religion at Saint Thomas University. Author of widely used book on social analysis and practical theology. Author of major study on history of papal social teaching. President of Pax Romana/Catholic Movement for Intellectual & Cultural Affairs USA.

DR. FRANCIS SICIUS **CATHOLIC SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

Ph.D. in History from Loyola University Chicago. Professor of History at Saint Thomas University. Author of important book on the Catholic Worker movement and of another book on the life of Peter Maurin, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Also expert in Florida Studies.

DR. MARK WOLFF **GLOBAL ETHICS**

L.L.M. from New York University. Professor of Law at Saint Thomas University School of Law. Author of articles on tax law and politics. Vice-President for North America of Pax Romana / International Catholic Movement for Intellectual & Cultural Affairs and Main Pax Romana NGO Representative to the United Nations.

civilization that is truly ecological, humanistic, and spiritual stands at the heart of contemporary Catholic Social Teaching.

- **SUSTAINABLE & FLOURISHING ECOSYSTEMS.** The Center maintains that guidance of the global economy by falsely utopian modern mechanistic ideologies is threatening the ecological sustainability of the biosphere of the planet, the health and life of humanity, and also the very spiritual consciousness of all humanity. It proposes the new global civilization needs to be grounded on sustainable and flourishing ecosystems that support health and life for all of humanity and that will be a source of spiritual nourishment as well.
- **DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE.** The Center supports the defense, expansion, and reform of the United Nations and its specialized agencies on behalf of democratic global governance for the ecological, social, and spiritual communion of the entire planetary system. It emphasizes the importance of UNESCO as a center of planetary dialogue of civilizations on behalf of a global culture of peace and solidarity.
- **PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR.** The Center sees modern mechanistic ideologies as undermining the life and health of poor people across the globe. At the same time it sees the poor as God's specially chosen ones and touchstones for authentic solidarity across the new global civilization.
- **CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE.** The Center is guided by the Consistent Ethic of Life which seeks to defend human life at all stages and in all situations, particularly for the unborn, the poor, the handicapped, and the elderly, as well as for victims of abuse and torture, and for those legally condemned to death.
- **TRANSFORMATIVE LAY LEADERSHIP.** The Center seeks to serve prophetic lay leadership of women and men across the world in the foundational spiritual areas of family life, human work, and citizenship at every level from the local to the global.
- **MUTUALITY OF THEORY & PRACTICE.** The Center promotes intellectual study for the sake of humble, interdisciplinary, and holistic service of prophetic, transformative, and regenerative action movements and institutions across the entire human family.

PROJECTS

The Center pursues scholarly studies, seminars, and symposia in service of practical and prophetic lay action in all areas addressed by Catholic Social Teaching (CST). It invites proposals for projects from scholars and activists from across the world. All Center projects are conducted on a voluntary basis without financial remuneration. Currently the Center is pursuing the following projects.

- **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING.** This project traces the historically, philosophically, and theologically the emergence and unfolding of CST as found in the papal encyclicals from 1740 to 2005. It analyzes three distinct stages of the tradition. This project is directed by Dr. Joe Holland and has already produced one book titled *MODERN CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING, 1740 TO 1958: THE POPES CONFRONT THE INDUSTRIAL AGE* (Paulist Press, 2003). A second volume tentatively titled *POSTMODERN CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING, 1958 TO 2005* is now in preparation.
- **BEYOND THE DEATH PENALTY: DEVELOPMENT IN CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING.** This project, initiated by the Florida Council of Catholic Scholarship and now pursued jointly with the Center, has held two Florida scholarly symposia on the theme, and has produced a scholarly but popularly oriented book for use by parishes, schools, and community groups. The book, co-edited by Dr. Holland and Dr. D. Michael McCarron (Executive Director of the Florida Catholic Conference) and bearing the title of the project, was published in 2007.
- **GLOBAL ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.** This project, directed by Dr. Elisabeth Ferrero, explores the fresh philosophical cosmology arising from new insights in the natural sciences with profound implications for educational curricula. One outcome of this project has been a book titled *THE EARTH CHARTER: A STUDY BOOK OF REFLECTION FOR ACTION*, co-authored by Dr. Ferrero and Dr. Holland. The book has been published in English, Italian, and Brazilian Portuguese versions, with a German version forthcoming.
- **NEW DIALOGUE OF CIVILIZATIONS.** This project addresses an alternative to the “clash of civilizations” predicted by Prof. Samuel Huntington of Harvard University. The project has published an international collection of essays on the subject in the *PAX ROMANA /CMICA-USA* official journal, *THE NOTEBOOK*. These essays were published in book form in Fall 2005 and co-edited by Roza Pati, LL.M., Executive Director of the Master of Law Program in Intercultural Human Rights at the Saint Thomas University School of Law (and formerly a government minister in Albania) and by Dr. Holland.
- **THE NEO-LIBERAL GLOBAL ECONOMY.** This project is pursuing research on the neo-liberal model of economic globalization and exploring regenerative alternatives. A series of essays on the subject is planned for a future edition of *PAX ROMANA/CMICA-USA*'s journal, *THE NOTEBOOK*. The project is directed by Dr. Holland, who has been working in collaboration with Dr. Djamester Simarmata, an economist from Indonesia.
- **BEYOND ABORTION: FORGIVENESS, HEALING, & PREVENTION.** This project seeks a compassionate, authentically feminist, and non-violent approach to the defense of unborn human life. Its particular focus is the philosophical grounding of the dignity of human life and the use of that philosophical grounding in public discourse. The project is directed by Dr. Joe Holland and Mr. César Baldelomar.
- **NEW YORK SYMPOSIA ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING & THE UNITED NATIONS.** This project, co-sponsored by Pax Romana worldwide, convenes symposia on CST for United Nations delegates, staff, and NGO members. Past events have been held in cooperation with the Holy See's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
- **FLORIDA SYMPOSIA ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING.** This project, co-sponsored by Saint Thomas University, is jointly sponsored with the Florida Council of Catholic Scholarship and brings together academic scholars from the Catholic schools of higher education in Florida and professionals from the Catholic dioceses of Florida. It give a public voice to the Center's projects. Past symposia have been held on the Holy See's *COMPENDIUM OF THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH*, on Stem-Cell Research and Cloning, and on the Death Penalty.