

Solidarity



Solidarity

Solidarity

Unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest.

Solidarity

“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few.” - Pope Francis,

Fratelli Tutti

Solidarity and Creation

“God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” - Genesis 1



Solidarity and Creation

“There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to one hope
when you were called; one Lord,
one faith, one baptism; one God
and Father of all, who is over all and
through all and in all.”

- Ephesians



Solidarity and Creation

“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”

- Colossians



Solidarity in the Early Church

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

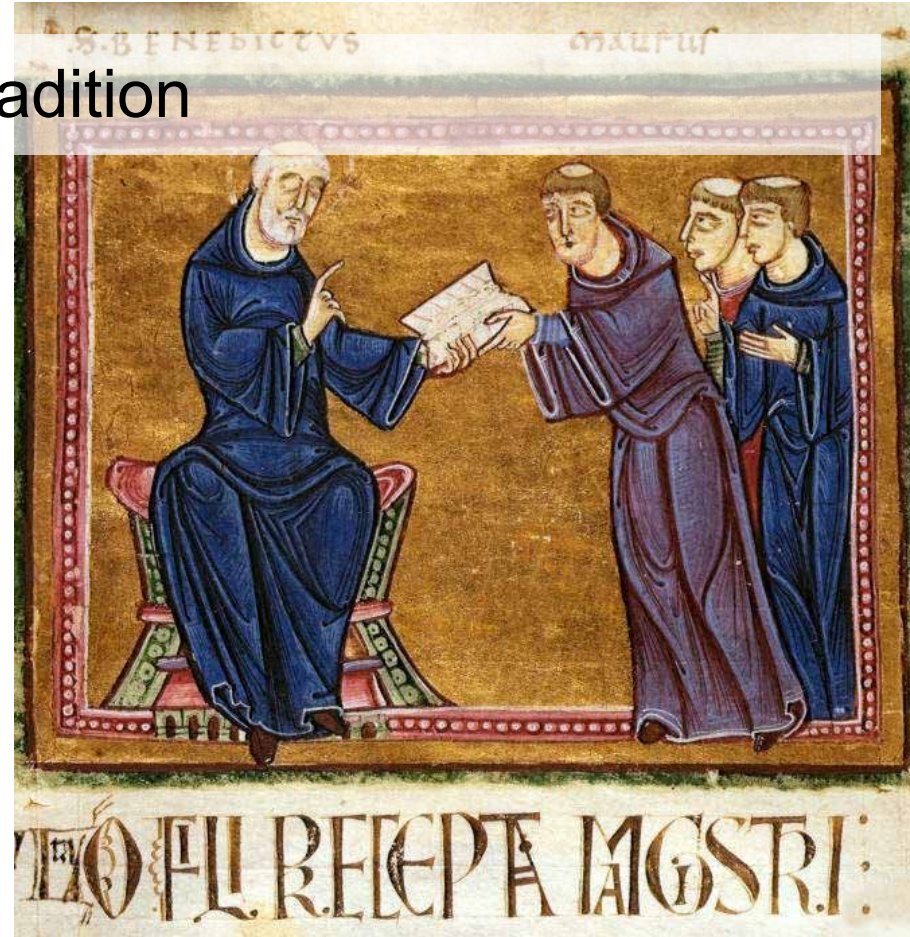
- Acts.



Solidarity and the Monastic Tradition

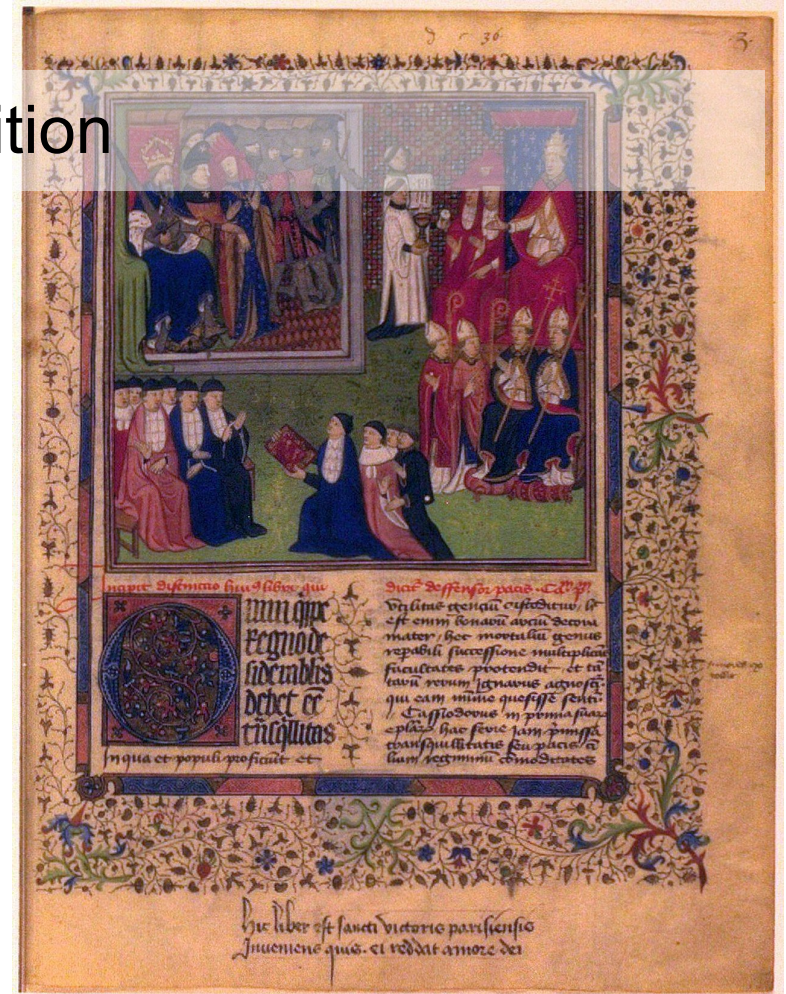
“He should have absolutely not anything: neither a book, nor tablets, nor a pen-nothing at all. All things shall be common to all, as it is written: "Let not any man presume or call anything his own.”

- *Rule of St Benedict*, Rule 33.



Solidarity and the Scholastic Tradition

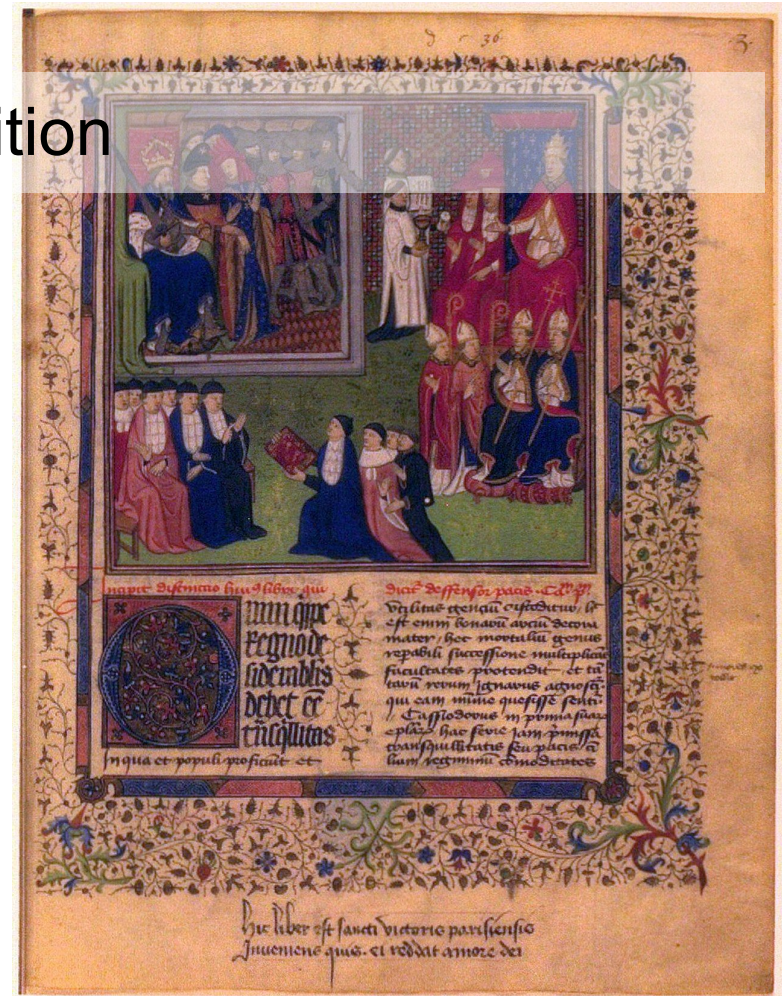
- Marsilius of Padua.
- 'Proto-republican and proto-social contractarian.'
- 1270 – 1342
- *Defensor Pacis*.



Solidarity and the Scholastic Tradition

“The tranquility of peace lies in the willingness of the people as a whole to discern the common utility and to give this matter vigilant care and diligent efforts.”

- Marsilius, *Defensor Pacis*.



Solidarity and Nationalism

“Man is a slave neither of his race, his language, his religion, the course of his rivers, nor the direction of his mountain ranges. A great aggregation of men, in sane mind and warm heart, created a moral conscience that calls itself a nation.”

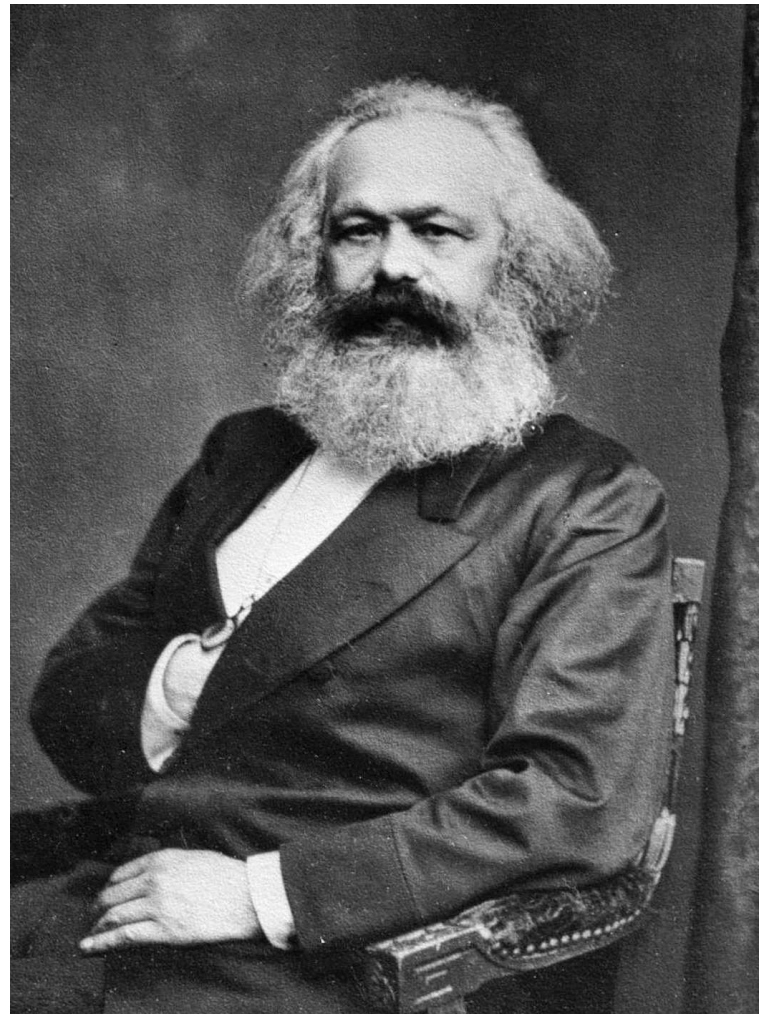
- Ernest Renan, *What is a Nation?*



Solidarity and Socialism

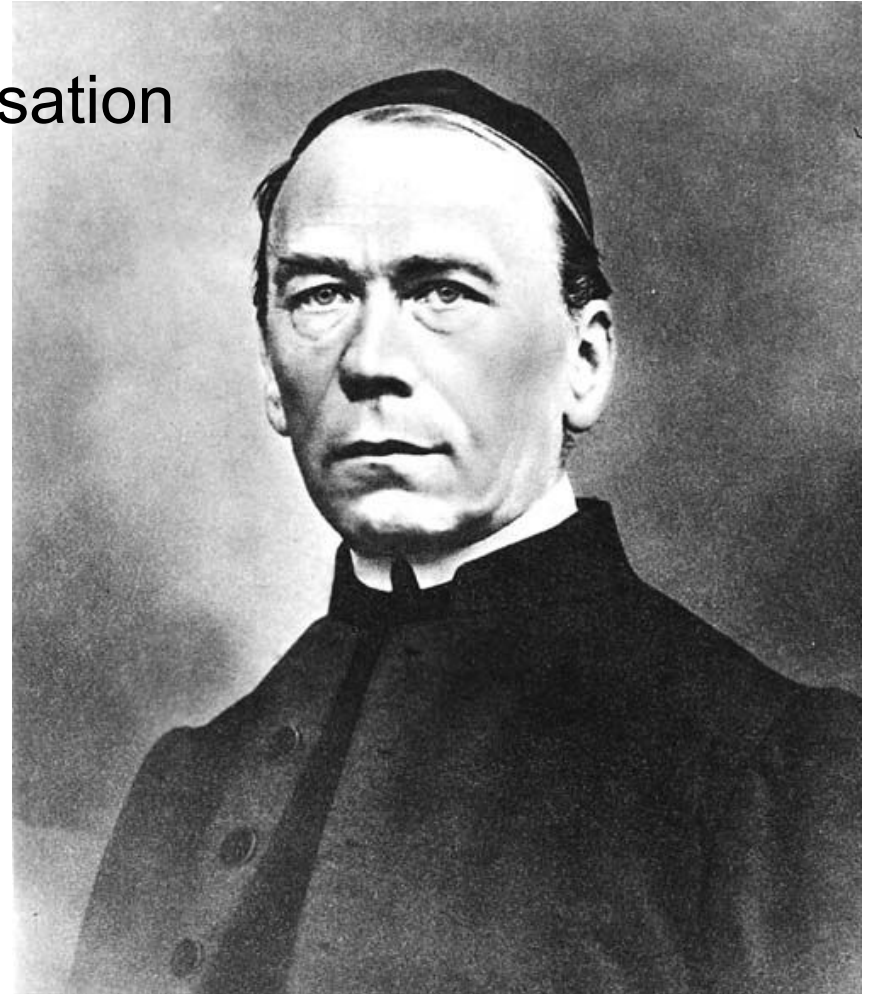
“Citizens, let us think of the basic principle of the International: Solidarity. Only when we have established this life-giving principle on a sound basis among the numerous workers of all countries will we attain the great final goal which we have set ourselves. The revolution must be carried out with solidarity; this is the great lesson of the French Commune.”

- Karl Marx, *Speech Delivered* September 8, 1872, in Amsterdam.



Solidarism and Labour Organisation

- Adolf Kolping
- 1813-1865.
- “Active Love.”
- *Gesellenvereine*.
- By 1865 there were 120,000 members across Germany and the United States.



Solidarism and Labour Organisation

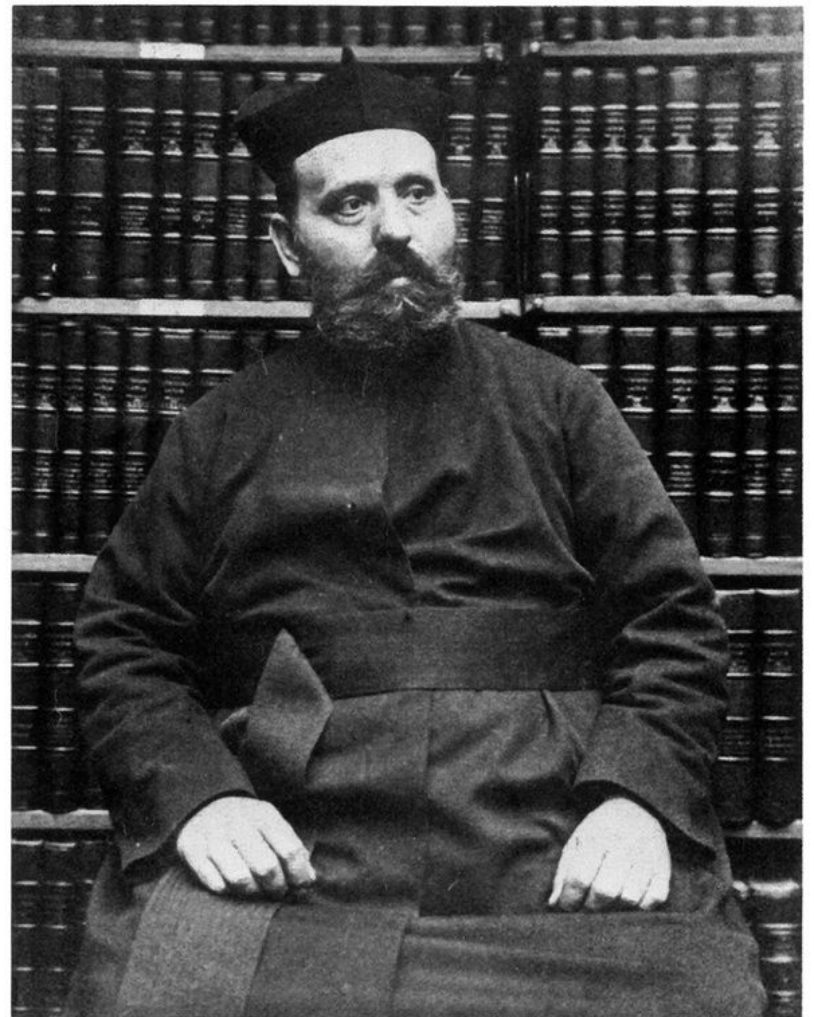
'The bosses will say: "Let working men maintain their independence of one another and of all associations and of all unions and of all united action and of all intervention of the law on their behalf. The more perfectly they are isolated, the more independence of all defenders, the more dependent they are on capitalists. Starving men may be locked out with impunity. The hunger of their wives, the cries of their children, their own want of food will compel them to come in."'

- Cardinal Manning.



Solidarism

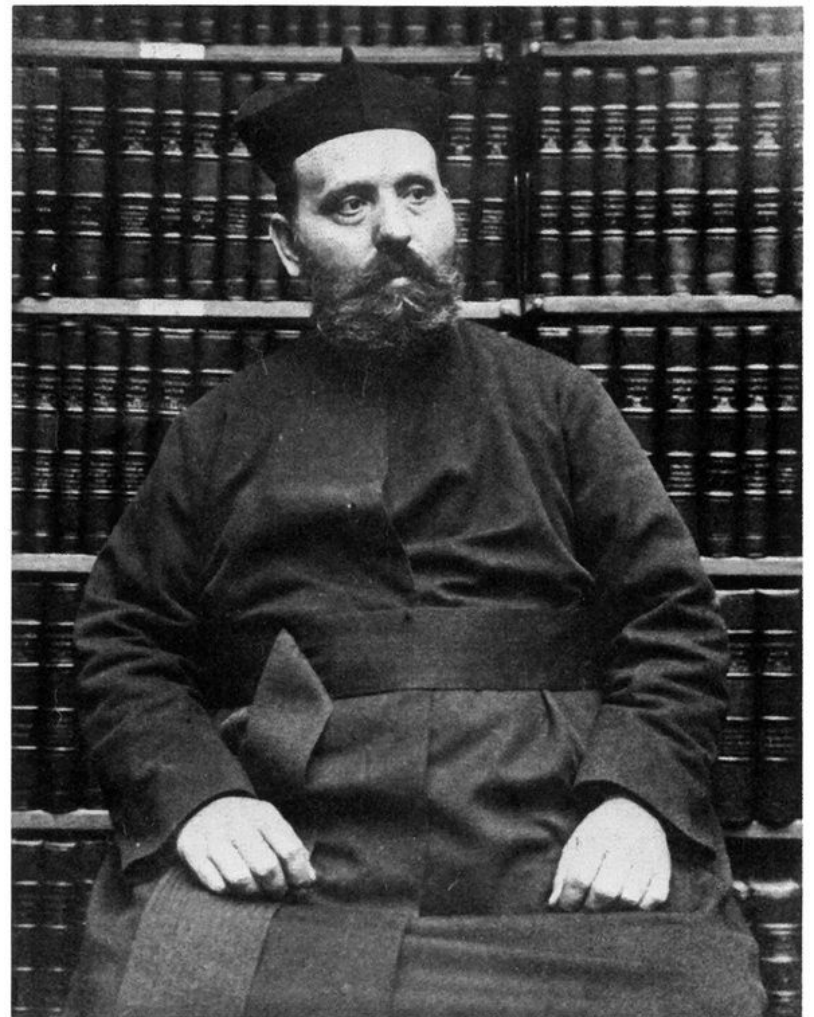
- Heinrich Pesch
- 1854-1926.
- Jesuit.
- Solidarism.
- “The socialisation of persons.”



Solidarism

“The state is more than merely a mass of individuals who happen to swell side-by-side. It is a moral-organic unit, a national community dominated by the purpose of working out the public welfare as being the state's purpose. First and foremost each man is his own person. But after that, each person is also a part of that organic unit which makes up the political commonwealth. Citizens of a political state are morally obligated by the common purpose of the state. They ought also to serve the public weal by their role as economizing citizens, both in a positive manner by their economic contributions and also in a passive manner by taking care not to harm the rights of others and the overall common good in their quest for gain. By such a conscientious regard for the general welfare, the economy will be transformed from a mere plurality of private economic units into a social unit without which thereby thrusting aside or suppressing this plurality of private economic units. .”

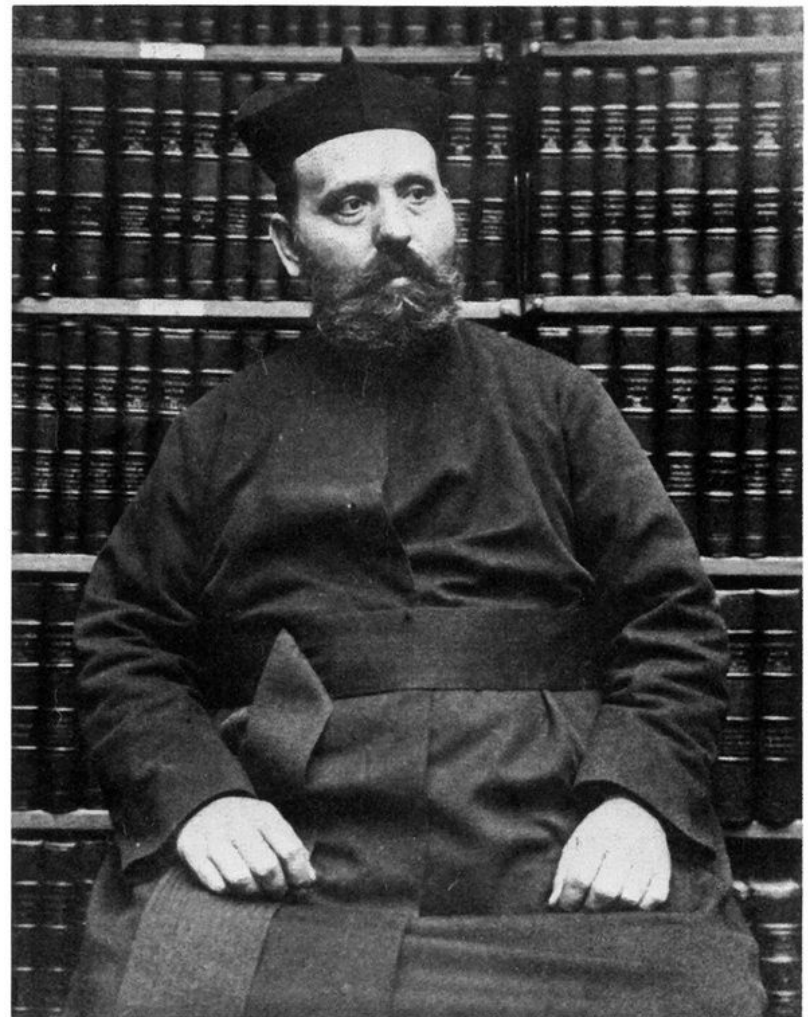
- Heinrich Pesch



Solidarism

“The kind of peaceful relationship between workers and employers that is required for the interests of both parties can only profit from a fuller corporative unity of occupational organizations, wider-ranging formation of the working community, and the more complete development of social organism, starting at the lowest level of the individual shop and extending upward to regional organizations and finally, all of the way to the level of a national economic council. This latter body then must lay the groundwork for legislation by the political parliament.”

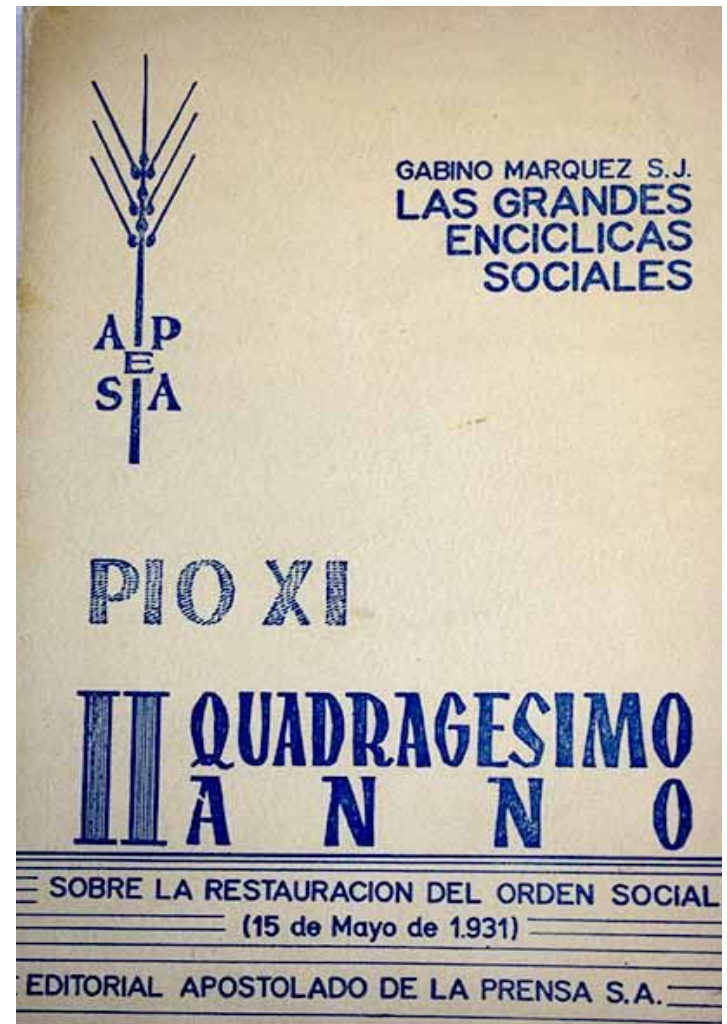
- Heinrich Pesch



Solidarity in *Quadragesimo Anno*

“The social character of ownership, [demands] that men must consider in this matter not only their own advantage but also the common good. To define these duties in detail when necessity requires and the natural law has not done so, is the function of those in charge of the State. Therefore, public authority, under the guiding light always of the natural and divine law, can determine more accurately upon consideration of the true requirements of the common good, what is permitted and what is not permitted to owners in the use of their property.”

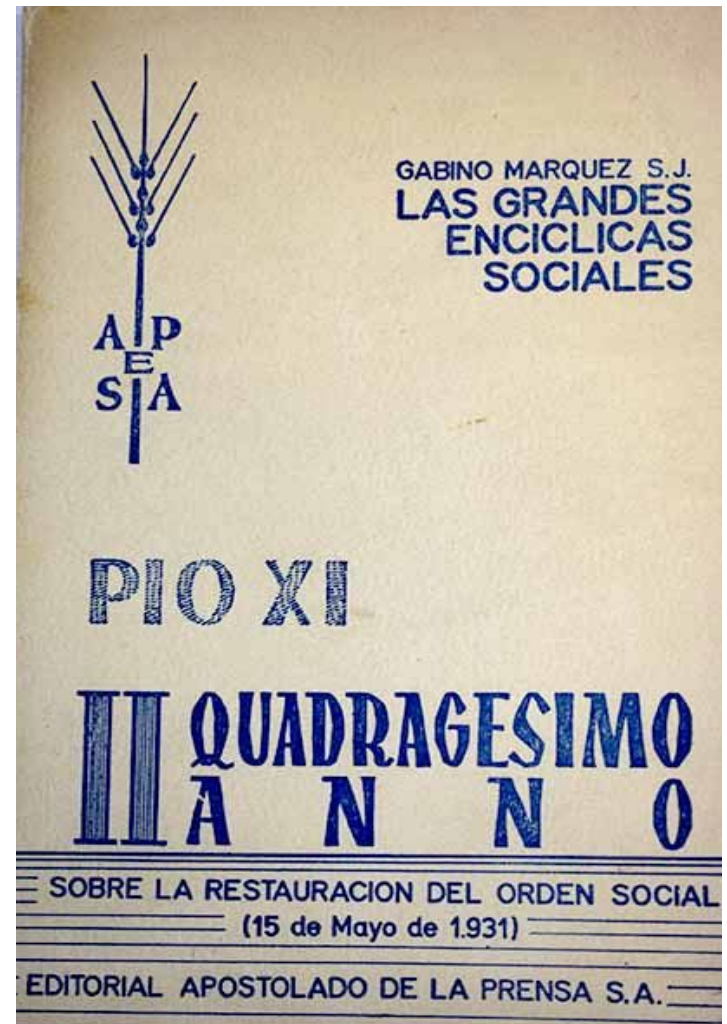
- Pius XI, *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931).



Solidarity in *Quadragesimo Anno*

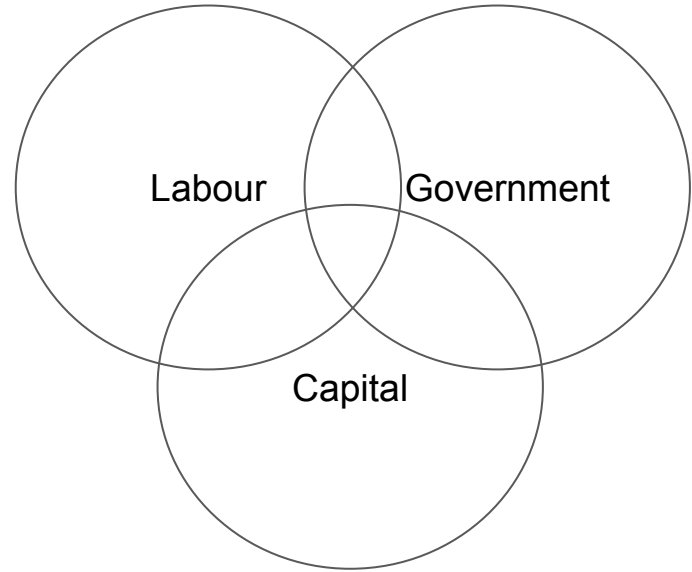
“Free competition, while justified and certainly useful provided it is kept within certain limits, clearly cannot direct economic life - a truth which the outcome of the application in practice of the tenets of this evil individualistic spirit has more than sufficiently demonstrated. Therefore, it is most necessary that economic life be again subjected to and governed by a true and effective directing principle... Hence, the institutions themselves of peoples and, particularly those of all social life, ought to be penetrated with this justice.”

- Pius XI, *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931).



Solidarism and Corporatism

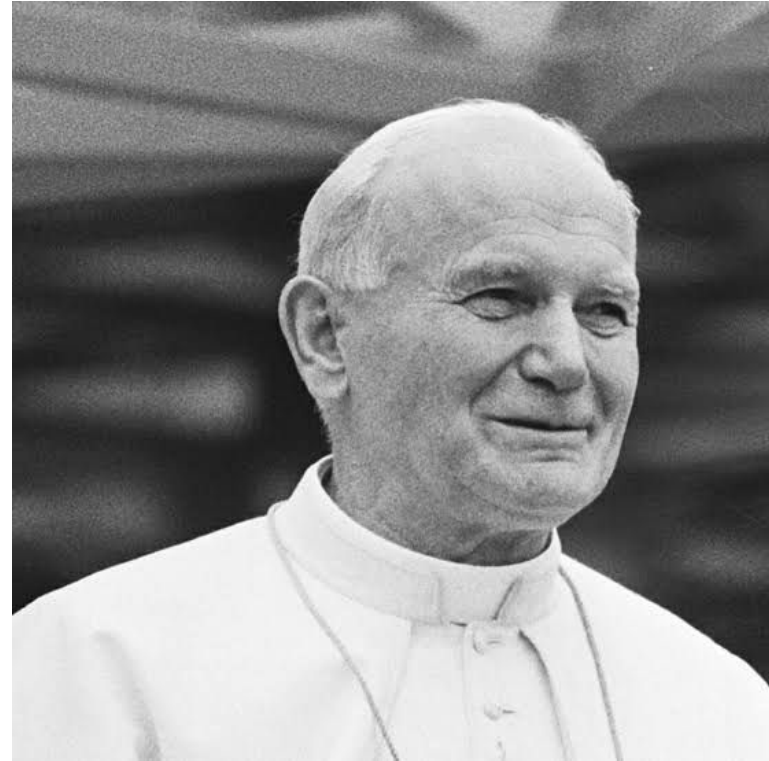
- Ferdinand Tönnies
- Juan Perón.
- Konrad Adenauer.



Solidarity and Global Development

“Certainly the continuing problem of the external debt of many of the developing countries could be looked at with new eyes if everyone concerned would consciously include these ethical considerations in the evaluations made and the solutions proposed. Many aspects of this issue would benefit from seeking in solidarity those solutions that promote stable development.”

- Pope John Paul II, *Homily on The Day of World Peace* (1987)



Solidarity and Social Ecology

“A community is that much stronger if it is cohesive and supportive, if it is animated by feelings of trust, and pursues common objectives. The community as a network of solidarity requires mutual listening and dialogue, based on the responsible use of language. Everyone can see how social network communities are not automatically synonymous with community. In the best cases, these virtual communities are able to demonstrate cohesion and solidarity, but often they remain simply groups of individuals who recognize one another through common interests or concerns characterized by weak bonds.”

- Pope Francis, *Homily on World Communication Day* (2019).



Compunction and Solidarity

“A heart capable of compunction will grow in fraternity and solidarity. Otherwise, we regress and grow old within, whereas when our prayer becomes simpler and deeper, grounded in adoration and wonder in the presence of God, we grow and mature. We become less attached to ourselves and more attached to Christ. Made poor in spirit, we draw closer to the poor, those who are dearest to God. This leads to a true spirit of reparation, for “those who feel compunction of heart increasingly feel themselves brothers and sisters to all the sinners of the world; renouncing their airs of superiority and harsh judgments, they are filled with a burning desire to show love and make reparation”. The sense of solidarity born of compunction also enables reconciliation to take place.”

- *Dilexit Nos*, par. 190.

POPE FRANCIS DILEXIT NOS



ON THE HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE
OF THE HEART OF JESUS CHRIST

Encyclical Letter



Questions

1. Is living in community – as the first Christians did – an ideal of Christian life?
3. Does democracy aid or hinder solidarity?
4. Is solidarity a more or less powerful force today that it was in the period of Fourier and Renan? Why?
5. Pesch defines solidarity as having four aims: The Social dimension of Private property; The restoration of the family; The prevention of social isolation; The service of the citizenry by the state. Is there anything that you would add (or take away) from this list?
6. Do you agree with Pesch that 'labour is a moral necessity'?
7. What are the benefits of solidarism over socialism or capitalism?
10. In 2024, the average CEO is paid 350 times as much as a typical worker in contrast to 1965 when they were paid 21 times as much as a typical worker. Can solidarity exist in such an unequal society?
11. How does Pope Francis' concept of social ecology differ from the traditional conception of solidarity?
12. Does Social Media help or hinder solidarity?