



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Migration and Integral Human Development: 50 years after *Populorum Progressio*

COMECE lunch debate 23.03.2017

I. *Populorum Progressio*: Its Relevance for Today's World, by Grégoire Catta SJ

The encyclical *Populorum Progressio* was published in 1967 and is the first social encyclical of Pope Paul VI. It takes place during the 60', which are considered as the decade of development. Indeed, the context is the one of the massive decolonization, of the implementation of the second Vatican Council and the opening of the church to the world. *Populorum Progressio* is the contribution of the church to the theme of development, and its starting point is the human and the subjects concerning it: education, culture, justice, peace, and religious freedom, especially in the newly independent countries. It is intended not only for Catholics, but also for every man of good faith. In order to promote the flourishing of a universal fraternity, the encyclical stresses on three main subjects, which are development, peace and justice. The encyclical highlights the need to act for a social and economic growth of newly decolonized countries. It must be borne in mind that well-being and growth cannot be limited to the economy but **must foster the development of each man and of the whole man** (PP§14) and the Pope therefore has engaged the church in the debate of **complete human development**

Key points of the Encyclical:

- Development is the transition to less human conditions to more human conditions (§20)
- What are truly human conditions? The rise from poverty to the acquisition of life's necessities; the elimination of social ills; broadening the horizons of knowledge; acquiring refinement and culture (§21)
- This integral approach found echo in the Human Development Index of the United Nations, used by UNDP and based on three variables (longevity, living standards and education)
- About Trade Relations (§61) should be promoted a form of economy respecting ethical values.
- About migrants (Welcoming the stranger §67) coming to work in western countries, the encyclical stresses out the poor condition in which those people often are.

Conclusion

- *Populorum Progressio* has an integral approach that can be seen as updated by *Laudato Si'* because of the necessity of dealing with worldwide ecology which is,

such as every crisis, the matter of the whole humanity since we are all in an interactive system (Laudato Si' §139).

II. *Facing forced migration* by Annabelle Roig Granjon, Senior EU Affairs Officer, UNHCR Brussels, Global issues / EU Unit

- We notice an erosion of protection space in Europe as EU has difficulties to speak of one voice with solidarity. There is a refugee crisis, but also one with the EU institutions.
- The erosion of the protection space is characterized by violence at the borders of the EU and restricted access to the territory of Member States.
- Standards are decreasing since the introduction of restrictive legislations in order to stop immigrants at the border.
- Political rhetoric is based on fear and we thus advocate the EU to be a value-based actor at international level.
- There is a kind of EU schizophrenic behavior: the Union is preaching solidarity at highest levels, but this cannot be seen on the field.
- We promote the building of an asylum system in third countries such as in the Balkans by keeping in mind that it took 60 years for the EU to build one.
- We are calling the EU to facilitate migration, family reunification and the issuance of humanitarian Visas but also and above all build a resettlement zone for those moving to safe countries.
- New York declaration: compacts will be adopted for 2018.

Q&A

- Pax Christi: Is the deal with Turkey going to survive in view of the current presidential policy? Turkey is very powerful on this deal. They are threatening us to send us all the migrants they have, but the deal is quite stable for the moment. Normally, it will hold.
- About the right to return, there is a big issue such as when someone returns home and has lost all his properties and don't even have property title. Therefore, we must develop laws in order to protect people from those kinds of situations.
- Church of Scientology: Why is EU kind of bipolar? Because when in New York, speak of one voice, once back in Europe, dealing with 28 Member States.

III. *Closing Remarks*, by José Ignacio Garcia SJ, Regional Director JRS Europe

We are working in Africa, Asia and Europe helping migrants and people looking for new opportunities. As said, the crisis of the refugees is also the crisis of the EU institutions. These events show us that *Populorum Progressio* is still relevant. Indeed, we have to ask ourselves how we can reduce poverty and share resources. The encyclical is still very actual now that development has become a more human discipline. We have to see migrations such as human resources for a market in demand of low qualified workforce and integration as a challenge on how to manage living together. We cannot proclaim our faith and then close the borders. Our approach to the crisis must be spiritual and open to discernment. In conclusion, we must be aware of fear, because there is no fear in love (1 John 4:18).