

Content

Introduction **PAGE 10**



1



God's Master Plan: Love

QUESTIONS 1 TO 21

with the collaboration of Peter Schallenberg, Marco Bonacker and Nils Baer

Why we do not understand God if we do not know that he is love. Why we need a "civilization of love", and how we can change the world with love. **PAGE 14**

From important Church documents **PAGE 28**

2

Together We Are Strong: The Church's Social Mission

QUESTIONS 22 TO 46

with the collaboration of Thomas Berenz and Christian Stoll

Why no one can really be a Christian without being social.

Why the Church is not an end in herself. Why she champions justice for all human beings. **PAGE 32**

DIGRESSION New Media

PAGE 46

From important Church documents **PAGE 54**



Unique and Infinitely Valuable: The Human Person

QUESTIONS 47 TO 83

with the collaboration of Walter Schweidler, Anton Losinger and Marco Bonacker

Why a human being has no monetary value but an innate dignity. Why human rights have just as good a foundation in faith as in reason, and why God alone can protect human beings from falling into each other's hands. **PAGE 58**

DIGRESSION The person in bioethics

PAGE 74

From important Church documents **PAGE 84**



The Common Good, Personhood, Solidarity, Subsidiarity: The Principles of the Church's Social Teaching

QUESTIONS 84 TO 111

with the collaboration of Christoph Krauss and Joachim Hüpkes

Why we speak about four major principles of social doctrine; how they are ethically justified and put into practice. And why they are especially well qualified to analyze and improve societal conditions. **PAGE 90**

From important Church documents **PAGE 110**



The Foundation of Society: The Family

QUESTIONS 112 TO 133

with the collaboration of Ursula Nothelle-Wildfeuer and Elisabeth Zschiedrich

Why the family is the germ cell of society, what the family accomplishes for society, why the family life-style is particularly exposed to dangers (and not just today), and why it must therefore be especially protected. **PAGE 114**

From important Church documents **PAGE 132**



Occupation and Vocation: Human Work

QUESTIONS 134 TO 157

with the collaboration of Arnd Küppers

Why work is not a curse but an expression of human self-realization. Why work makes us collaborators with God. Why work is for man and not man for work. **PAGE 134**

From important Church documents **PAGE 152**





Real life is fellowship.

MARTIN BUBER (1878–1965), Jewish religious philosopher



The digital media make people fat, stupid, aggressive, lonely, sick, and unhappy.

MANFRED SPITZER (1958), German psychiatrist who coined the expression *digital dementia*



In the digital world, transmitting information ... means making it known within a social network where knowledge is shared in the context of personal exchanges. The clear distinction between the producer and consumer of information is relativized and communication appears not only as an exchange of data, but also as a form of sharing.

POPE BENEDICT XVI, Message for the 45th World Communications Day, 2011

42

What responsibility do I have in using the media?

The social media can bring people together or lead them into isolation. They can help people be better informed, enrich and inspire them, or seduce them to evil. What we do and permit in the media and the social networks ought to serve the purpose of all human communication: overcoming the confusion of languages at Babel (Gen 11:4–8) and coming to an understanding of all by the Spirit of God (Acts 2:5–11). The central ethical concept here is “responsibility”: responsibility to God, who wants us to help truth prevail and to seek one another in love; responsibility to our neighbor, who should be integrated, involved, and enriched through the social media; responsibility to myself, since I should enter into true community with others through the media instead of shutting myself off in self-centered “virtual” isolation from other people and their real needs.

→ 198, 416, 562 → 2494, 2495, 2497 → 459, 460

43 ***What does ideal communication on the Internet look like?***

As desirable as it is for Christians to conquer the “digital continent” and to fill it with the light of the Gospel, the way in which they communicate must be set apart from the usual approaches. It makes sense for Christians to post messages and run blogs dealing with Christian topics. But if they denounce other people in them, if they slander, belittle, and condemn others, if they cause or support divisions, then they are doing the opposite of what Pope Francis calls for in *Evangelii gaudium*: “The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded.” This applies also to the presence of Christians in the social media: “It is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance, or fear” (EG 23).

44 ***Are there good media and bad media?***

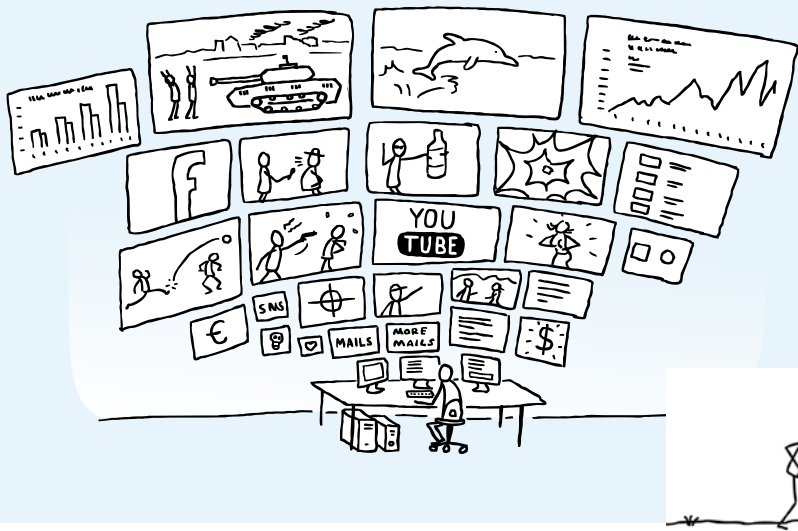
Media as such are good, but they can be used badly; some are more useful, others less so. It always depends on one’s purpose and how one uses them. One can employ media in such a way that the result

” The right to information is inseparable from freedom of communication. Social life depends on a continual interchange, both individual and collective, between people.

Pastoral Instruction
Communio et progressio 44.

” All who, of their own free choice, make use of these media of communications ... [should] avoid those that may be a cause or occasion of spiritual harm to themselves, or that can lead others into danger through base example, or that hinder desirable presentations and promote those that are evil. To patronize such presentations, in most instances, would merely reward those who use these media only for profit.

Vatican Council II, Decree
Inter mirifica (IM) 9





the duty to seek peace. Moreover, peace is a good that is as fragile as it is valuable. Day by day, peace must be built up anew. Peace can last only if both Christians and non-Christians recognize that all are responsible for a common life of reconciliation, justice, and goodwill.

→ 494–495 → 2304–2305 → 327, 395

274

How does a Christian get started making peace?

Peace does not begin in trenches or around treaty tables. The peace that comes from above always begins in the heart of an individual human being; from there it spreads. A Christian finds peace in and with himself through prayer and listening to the Word of God. The sacraments are important, too, especially Confession, which is a real sacrament of peace. One attains inner peace also when one takes the first step and meets one's neighbor in real charity. In order to live with one another in peace, Christians know of no more effective method than a permanent willingness to forgive and to be reconciled. "To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also" (Lk 6:29). Your own peace radiates: in the family, in your circle of friends, and in society as a whole.

→ 95, 517–518 → 1723 → 279, 284, 311

275

What is peace?

Many say that peace is the absence of war; others think that peace is a stable equilibrium between hostile powers. These definitions are inadequate, however. Peace is the tranquility of order and, more deeply, happiness in God's good order. This sort of peace is our goal. We find ourselves on the path of peace when we work in justice and love toward a world that is ordered as God intended. Moreover, we find ourselves alongside all people who honestly and sincerely seek

“Whenever you share love with others, you'll notice the peace that comes to you and to them.

BL. TERESA OF CALCUTTA
(1910–1997)

“No peace in the world without peace among nations; no peace among nations without peace in the family; no peace in the family without peace in me; no peace in me without peace with God.

Chinese Proverb



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

MT 5:9



It is normal for husband and wife to argue: it's normal. It always happens. But my advice is this: never let the day end without having first made peace. Never!

POPE FRANCIS, Sep 14, 2014, homily at Mass with Rite of Marriage



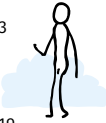
Young people are the source of hope for the future. Your historic destiny is to build a civilization of love, of brotherhood and solidarity.

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II,
World Youth Day 1995 in Manila



Index of Names

Abbey, Edward 199
Abel 36
Abraham 21, 215
Acton, John Emerich Edward Dalberg (Lord Acton) 191
Adam 19, 62, 116, 137, 215, 233
Adams, Aaron 230
Adenauer, Konrad 195
Adler, Alfred 179
Ambrose of Milan, St. 106, 219
Annan, Kofi 210
Aram I 262
Arendt, Hannah 195
Aristotle 96, 109, 149, 186
Arthus-Bertrand, Yann 176
Assan, Dan 109
Augustine, St. 26, 62, 118, 137, 190–91, 199, 218, 286, 288–89, 297



Basil the Great, St. 214
Baudouin of Belgium, King 257
Beigbeder, Frédéric 176
Benedict of Nursia, St. 227
Benedict XVI, Pope 10, 16, 22, 27, 29–30, 35, 39, 41, 45, 47–48, 50, 53, 55, 60, 65, 71, 74, 82–83, 94, 95, 112, 128, 142, 144, 159–61, 165, 167, 175, 178, 180–81, 192, 199, 204, 212, 223, 235, 238, 240, 242–43, 247–48, 253, 257, 259, 267–69, 271, 277, 283, 286, 295, 299
Bergoglio, Jorge Cardinal → Francis, Pope
Bernard of Clairvaux, St. 295
Berners-Lee, Tim 46, 47
Blüm, Norbert 138, 194
Böckenförde, Ernst Wolfgang 188
Bodelschwing, Friedrich von 104
Böll, Heinrich 281
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich 204, 256
Borchert, Jürgen 129
Börne, Ludwig 162
Bosch, Robert 150
Brandt, Willy 131
Brecht, Bertolt 264, 285
Bridget of Sweden, St. 160
Buber, Martin 46
Buffett, Warren 106, 233
Buss, Franz Joseph von 147

Cain 36
Caldwell, Taylor 186
Câmara, Dom Hélder 95
Cameron, David 182–83
Campolo, Tony 197
Carroll, Lewis 246
Carter, Jimmy 247
Cass, Moses Henry 146
Catherine of Siena St., 20, 295
Celli, Claudio Maria 47, 56
Charles Borromeo, St. 64
Chekhov, Anton 218
Chesterton, Gilbert Keith 25, 37, 70, 166, 199, 202, 296
Chrétien de Troyes 93
Churchill, Sir Winston 127, 168, 192
Cicero, Marcus Tullius 163, 186
Claudel, Paul 239
Claudius, Matthias 106
Clement of Alexandria, St. 167
Confucius 100, 122
Constantine, Emperor 190
Delp, Alfred 215
De Soto, Hernando 147
Di Fabio, Udo 122
Dostoevsky, Fyodor M. 67, 68, 202
Dürr, Hans-Peter 243

Ebner-Eschenbach, Marie von 123, 138, 223
Eckhart, Meister 66, 226
Edith Stein, St. → Stein, Edith (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)
Egidio of Assisi, Bl. 231
Ehard, Hans 148
Einstein, Albert 123, 189, 218
Eisenhower, Dwight David 213
Engels, Friedrich 144
Eucken, Walter 175
Eve 19, 116, 137



Fenney, Charles 219
Fontane, Theodor 187
Ford, Henry 118, 123
Forst, Rainer 219
Foucauld, Charles de, Bl. 11, 23, 25, 277, 279, 284
Francis, Pope 10–13, 30–31, 34, 36, 39–40, 42, 44–45, 48, 51–53, 56–57, 67–68, 71,

76–78, 89, 92, 98, 102, 104, 113, 117, 125,
127–28, 133, 145, 155, 161, 165, 167, 171,
173, 179, 182–83, 190, 193, 196–98, 216,
225, 228, 233, 238–44, 246–47, 249, 255,
259, 270, 273, 278–79, 281, 287, 292–95,
297, 300–303
Francis of Assisi, St. 11, 286, 295
Frederick the Great 202
Frings, Josef Cardinal 97
Frisch, Max 140, 264
Frontinus, Julius Sextus 231
Fulton J. Sheen, Ven. 27

Gandhi, Mahatma (Mohandas Karam-
chand) 98, 104, 107, 151, 193, 263
Gates, Bill 174
Gauck, Joachim 195
Geldof, Bob 103
German Bishops 266
Getty, John Paul 159
Gide, André 172
Gmeiner, Hermann 93
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von 121, 122,
195
Graham, Billy 62
Gysi, Gregor 203



Hall, Evelyn Beatrice 70
Hammarskjöld, Dag 257
Hardon, John, SJ 137
Heine, Heinrich 265
Herodotus 190
Hesse, Hermann 242–43
Hildegard von Bingen, St. 142
Hippocrates 77
Hobbes, Thomas 213
Höffner, Josef Cardinal 158
Hugo, Victor 142
Humboldt, Wilhelm von 187

Iacocca, Lee 150
Ignatius of Loyola, St. 20
Isaac 21

Jackson, Robert H. 267
Jacob 21
Jamison, Judith 168
Jaspers, Karl 46

John Chrysostom, St. 95
John Henry Newman, Bl. 16
John Paul II, Pope St. 23, 28–29, 39,
44, 55, 62, 70, 75, 86–89, 96–97, 111–12,
118–21, 127, 132–33, 136–37, 141–45, 148,
154–55, 159, 166, 168–72, 174, 180, 207,
211, 228, 234–35, 239, 248–49, 255–56,
258, 260–61, 268–69, 273, 294, 298
John XXIII, Pope St. 28, 38, 72, 85, 132,
153, 206–7, 211, 215, 234, 258, 272–73
Jonas, Hans 220

Kamphaus, Franz 280
Kant, Immanuel 61, 258, 265
Kaye, Danny 163
Keller, Helen Adams 69
Kennedy, John F. 94, 173, 189, 258, 261
Kennedy, Margrit 222
Ketteler, Wilhelm Emmanuel von
140–41
Khrushchev, Nikita 258
Kierkegaard, Søren 105
King, Martin Luther 102, 137, 204
Kissling, C. 120
Kolping, Adolph 117, 140, 170
König, Franz Cardinal 200
Kresta, Al 25

Lactantius 85
Las Casas, Bartolomé de 62
Lawrence, Deacon 98
Lec, Stanislaw Jerzy 199
Lenin, Vladimir 121
Leonardo da Vinci 212
Leo XIII, Pope 12, 36, 38, 54, 84, 110–11,
132, 141, 142, 150, 152–53, 166, 180, 206,
287
Levinas, Emmanuel, 65
Lewis, C. S. 107, 194, 203, 280
Lichtenberg, Georg Christoph 231
Lincoln, Abraham 99, 231
Lindgren, Astrid 119, 120
Loriot (Vicco von Bülow) 52
Lü Buwei 100
Lustiger Arno 264

Mandela Nelson 151
Marcel Gabriel 18–19
Marx Karl 144, 194
Marx Reinhard 11

