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Pope's Quotes: An economy that kills

Dennis Coday | Nov. 26, 2013 The Francis Chronicles

Highlights from Pope Francis? apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (?The Joy of the Gospel?) [1] issued today. He says, "... the socioeconomic system is unjust at its root."

> 53. Just as the commandment ?Thou shalt not kill? sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say ?thou shalt not? to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality. Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless. As a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalized: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape. ...
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> 54. In this context, some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralized workings of the prevailing economic system. ... Almost without being aware of it, we end up being incapable of feeling compassion at the outcry of the poor, weeping for other people?s pain, and feeling a need to help them, as though all this were someone else?s responsibility and not our own. The culture of prosperity deadens us ...

Francis goes on to say in paragraph 59: "... the socioeconomic system is unjust at its root." More on that later.

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[1] http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html